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LD1810132888 [Editorial Report]

Algeria

Algiers television broadcast the proposed constitutional amendments which will be submitted to the people in the 3 November referendum. The reformulated constitutional articles stipulate that the head of government is responsible to the National People's Assembly and must resign if his program is rejected by the Assembly.

If the next prime minister chosen by the president likewise fails to obtain majority support in the Assembly, parliament will be dissolved and fresh elections held.

Other amendments provide for the Assembly to be convened in an extraordinary session at the request of the president, the head of government, or two-thirds of the deputies.

Popular sovereignty is exercised both through referendum and through the elected representatives in the Assembly.

As for the fate of those arrested during the recent disturbances, Justice Minister Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi told a French newspaper that 3,740 people have been charged, of whom 720 have already been tried and 920 released with or without trial, according to Paris radio.

Kharroubi also emphasized that all defendants' rights are being observed and that judicial procedures are "normal," with no question of special courts, Algiers radio noted.

The radio carried a short interview with Algeria's Human Rights League president, who stressed the rights of defendants.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held lengthy talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported, noting that 'Arafat briefed Bendjedid on current Palestinian moves to convene an emergency PNC session and declare an independent state.

'Arafat described the talks in Algiers as "important and positive."

Palestinian sources cited by INA affirmed that the PNC session will be in Algiers.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas told a UAE paper that the PLO will accept Resolution 242 as a basis for resolving the Mideast conflict if a paragraph is added affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, WAM reported.

'Abbas said he informed Soviet officials of this position during his recent visit to Moscow, adding the Soviets will convey this stand to the U.S. Administration.

He also contended that there are no differences between the PLO and the USSR on the proclamation of a Palestinian state.

Israel

Labor Policy—In an election broadcast carried by Jerusalem television, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that a Labor government would seek to hold free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to establish a Palestinian representation in negotiations.

He added that the results of any agreement with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be submitted to the Israeli people in a referendum to preserve national consensus.

A related broadcast by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that elections in the territories can only be held after the Palestinians maintain calm and "absolute quiet" for 3 to 6 months.

He expressed hope that "interim" agreements can be reached through a dialogue with elected Palestinian representatives.

Disturbances—Two IDF soldiers were wounded by a firebomb near Qalqilyah and eight Arabs were injured in clashes with soldiers in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Lebanese Forces (LF) Commander Samir Ja'ja' expressed willingness to meet Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri "or any other Lebanese figure" at Bkirki, the Mansur Palace, or elsewhere, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Regarding Birri's condition that Ja'ja' reject Israeli policy, the LF leader stressed his adherence to a "nationalist Lebanese policy line and no other, whether Israeli or otherwise."

He also said the LF favors "fraternal and balanced relations with Syria" and opposes partition.

On the LF's military strength, Beirut radio reported that recent Iraqi arms shipments to East Beirut included 64 T-55 tanks and 18 rocket launchers, noting that many of the weapons delivered were captured from the Iranians.

The radio said West Beirut observed a general strike 17 October to protest Iraq's support for General Michel 'Awn's "illegitimate" government in East Beirut.

The 18 October Chamber of Deputies session to elect a new speaker failed to achieve a quorum as the meeting was boycotted by deputies from the eastern area, the radio reported.

Iraq

"A responsible Iraqi source" told INA that U.S. allegations of Iraq's use of chemical weapons are "sheer falsehoods" and said the recent U.S. medical report contains "tendentious claims" aimed at discounting Iraq's "decisive victory" over Iran.

Iran

Iran accepts "in principle" the need to dredge the Shatt al-'Arab, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA said 18 October, but only within the context of the 1975 accord and Article 4 of UN Resolution 598.

He said previous reports on this issue, which indicated a change in Iran's position, had been "misreported."

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a press conference reported by Tehran radio, said Iran will not change its policy toward the United States as long as U.S. policy toward Iran remains "hostile."

On relations with Saudi Arabia, he expressed hope the two countries would reach agreement on the basis of cooperation within OPEC's goals.

Commenting on the recent GCC oil ministers' statement on production ceilings, Tehran radio rejected any OPEC agreement allowing Iran and Iraq equal quotas.

Arab Oil Policy

Arab Gulf OPEC members will seek to raise output ceilings to between 18.5 to 19 million barrels per day at next month's conference in Vienna, according to a "ranking Gulf oil industry source" cited by KUNA.

The new ceiling would allow Iraq to achieve parity with Iran.

Afghanistan

Burhanuddin Rabbani of the Jamiat-e Eslami group assumed the leadership of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance 17 October, AFP reported.

He announced at a press conference that the mujahidin are prepared to hold talks with Moscow, but ruled out the possibility of forming a coalition under Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the agency added.

He also indicated that there will be no place for former king Zahir Shah in a future government.

On the subject of mujahidin successes, Rabbani said they now control the Provinces of Takhar, Konduz, Bamian, Konarha, and Paktika and three more—Badakhshan, Vardak, and Qandahar—are "about to fall."

Palestinian Affairs

PNC To Convene in Algiers 'End' of October

JN1710194488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers, 17 Oct (INA)—The PNC's forthcoming session will begin work here at the end of this month. Responsible Palestinian sources have told an INA correspondent in Algiers that Algeria has completed the security and technical prepartions to hold the PNC's 19th session in Algiers.

The PNC's forthcoming session is expected to discuss the declaration of a Palestinian state and a provisional Palestinian government as well as an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the means of Arab and Palestinian support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Hurani on PLO Delegation's Moscow Visit

JN1510142488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Tunis, 15 Oct (INA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, has said that the Palestinian delegation's talks with the Soviet leadership dealt with current circumstances, concepts that may serve the Palestinian cause in the current stage, the uprising inside the occupied territories, and factors that may push forward the process to convene an international conference [for peace] in the Middle East and the PLO's participation in this conference.

In a statement to an INA correspondent here, he described the delegation's talks as successful. He said viewpoints were identical and will contribute to pushing forward the Palestinian cause. They will also contribute to creating major pressure factors on the U.S. Administration and the occupation authorities to accept the convening of an international conference and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

He explained that the Palestinian delegation did not discuss in Moscow the details of the proclamation of the Palestinian state. He said this subject will be left to the PLO's leadership to decide on.

The Palestinian delegation, headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, last night returned to Tunis following a 1-week visit to Moscow.

Visit 'Very Successful'

NC1510145388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Tunis, 15 Oct (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Cultural Department, has described the recent visit by a Palestinian delegation to Moscow as very successful. He indicated that the Palestinian and Soviet delegations held identical views in their evaluation of the current situation and the political ramifications of the PLO leadership's constructive, objective, and responsible stand.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hurani said: The Soviet leaders have informed us that the decision on the timing for making a declaration of the Palestinian independence document and political program, which will be discussed by the PNC at its upcoming emergency meeting, is up to the Palestinian leadership.

Al-Hurani added that the Soviet leaders had explained they had no objection to the PNC's convening before or after the Israeli and U.S. elections once the Palestinian leadership has completed preparing the declaration of independence and political program documents.

The MENA correspondent says this means that contrary to rumors circulating previously, the Soviet leadership did not advise the Palestinian leadership to postpone the question of the Palestinian state until after the upcoming Israeli and U.S. elections in November.

Al-Hurani returned to Tunis last night following the conclusion of the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow. The delegation was headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Foreign and Pan-Arab Department.

Al-Hurani said the PLO acts from a position of strength represented by the uprising in the occupied territories, the responsible stand taken by the PLO leadership, and the increasing world support for and sympathy with the Palestinian cause. This opens up vistas for a balanced solution that will take into consideration the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their own independent state; this will safeguard the security and peace of all the region's states.

On the increasing U.S. understanding of the Palestinian cause, Al-Hurani said the United States realized that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative was ineffective and that it was necessary to make additional efforts in participation with the Soviet Union. There is also a growing U.S. awareness of the factor of realism in the PLO's policy.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources believe that despite the change in the U.S. tone on Palestinian rights, the U.S. Administration is incapable of acting in league with the positive Soviet evaluation of the requirements for the current phase in the Palestinian cause or with the factor of realism in PLO policy. This is in view of the circumstances of the U.S. Administration's current situation, as U.S. President Ronald Reagan's term is about to end and the 8 November presidential elections are nearing.

It should be recalled that following his meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the end of last month, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, declared that the U.S. President affirmed for the first time the importance of acknowledging the political rights of the Palestinian people.

PLO Stand 'Commended'

JN1710160388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Oct 88 p 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—A ranking Palestinian official has stressed that the Palestinian leaders have not yet reached a final formula on the option that will be presented to the extraordinary PNC session to be held soon.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani added that the Palestinian leaders had reached initial formulas, while the final formula will be endorsed during another meeting to be held 1 week before the PNC session.

Al-Hurani denied that the date and venue of the PNC session have been fixed and said it makes no difference whether the PNC convenes at the end of October or the beginning of November.

Asked about the talks an Executive Committee delegation held with Soviet officials in Moscow a few days ago, Al-Hurani, a member of the delegation, said the talks were characterized by understanding, harmony, and close stands. He pointed out the Soviet side repeatedly commended the PLO's objective political stand.

Regarding the extent of Soviet acceptance of the idea of the PLO's declaring an independent Palestinian state, Al-Hurani said the Palestinian delegation did not discuss this subject in detail with the Soviet side.

He stressed that only the general political situation within the framework of the PLO's trends was presented, stressing that the decision will be Palestinian and not the decision of any other party.

He added that Moscow stressed to the delegation, which was headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, the need to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, especially those parts pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Reacting to a recent statement by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in which he said the present time is improper for an international conference on the Middle East, Al-Hurani said Perez de Cuellar might have meant to say that the Israeli and U.S. stands are unclear. He stressed the present time is most suitable for an international conference.

DFLP's Hawatimah Cited on Moscow Talks

JN1610095088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct (WAKH)— DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has said that Soviet officials affirmed to him during his talks with them in Moscow recently that the decision to proclaim an independent Palestinian state is a Palestinian decision and the Soviet Union will forcefully and strongly support the decisions taken by the PLO.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN published today, Hawatimah said the Soviet leadership affirmed to him during the talks its full support for the decisions that will be adopted at the forthcoming PNC session which will be held shortly in Algiers and also its unqualified support for the proclamation of a Palestinian state and the launching of a provisional government—issues which were met with Soviet understanding on all levels.

A DFLP delegation held talks with the Soviet leaders on a number of issues pertaining to the Palestine question, the popular uprising being staged in the occupied territories, and the recent developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

'Arafat Cited on Israeli Satellite, Lebanon

JN1510101988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 15 Oct (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that the heroic uprising in the occupied territory will continue until Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque are liberated.

In a statement published in the Doha-based AL-SHARQ newspaper today, 'Arafat expressed his conviction that the Israeli espionage satellite launched by Israel is not an unsolvable problem, noting that Arab scientists can launch a similar satellite.

'Arafat said the launching of this satellite at this time in particular resulted from the recent strategic changes that upset the balance of power in the Arab arena, particularly the continuous success of the uprising throughout the past 11 months and the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran as a prelude to ending the war. 'Arafat said this made Israel and the United States review their calculations to avoid this change.

On Lebanon, 'Arafat said: What is happening in this Arab country is in accordance with an Israeli scheme to divide the northern area into factional petty states to fight each other.

'Arafat called on Arab leaders to realize that the Arab nation is facing a strategic impasse imposed on all of us as a result of U.S. support for Israel's nuclear arms.

Salah Khalaf on Israeli Peace Movement

JN1510162788 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 11

[Statement by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, in response to invitation by AL-QABAS to comment on "the Israelis and the Palestinian state"; date, place not given]

[Text] A peace movement is growing very slowly in Israeli society. The reason for the slow growth in the peace forces there is the presence of a philosophy and complex of fear. Therefore, you find that the Israeli citizen is always alert and ready regarding all the difficult decisions by the leadership. One who is insecure is always ready to do everything he believes will offer him safety and security.

The philosophy of fear urges them to be very cautious and cast doubts on others' stands. It also encourages them to carry out military strikes in various areas from time to time. Sometime they attack Yasir 'Arafat's headquarters in Tunis or the Iraqi nuclear reactor and other times they invade Lebanon. All this is aimed at convincing the Israelis that their state and army—Israel is an army that has a state—are very strong.

Those who have ridded themselves of the state of fear are still a minority in Israel. This minority represents the intellectuals who studied history and know that a besieged Israel will have no future regardless of how strong it may be and that an Israel that is open to its neighbors can live, develop, and build the future.

This minority is still represented by the Rakah Party, the Peace Now Movement, some small groups in the various political parties, and some of the new forces on the Israeli street.

I believe the Peace Now Movement will grow if the Israeli citizen feels there is an opportunity for coexistence with others. The uprising has had the effect of polarizing Israeli society. This is completely true. Some sides have become more radical as a result of the official right-wing propaganda. This propaganda tells them that the uprising does not want to liberate Nabulus only, but it also wants Yafo and Tel Aviv.

As a result of this intensified propaganda, right-wing extremism has increased. While this sort of extremism has increased, other new forces have grown up. These forces believe that the solution lies in withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights. We can actually help these people.

We tell them: Let us establish two states in Palestine. Our dream was to establish a democratic state in the whole of Palestine in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews would coexist, but you misinterpreted that to mean the destruction of Israel.

Let us start a new experience of coexistence together. With this realistic program, that does not include slogans that will frighten them, we can escalate polarization in Israeli society and strengthen the approach that calls for withdrawal from the occupied territory and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Let us speak frankly: There are debts to the international community that were imposed by the June 1967 war—debts that must be settled. Our mind is open to talk of a realistic political program. It is a program that will break the fear the Zionist leadership has instilled in the minds of the Israelis regarding the Palestinian people and their ambitions to destroy the Israeli citizen as a human being. I believe it will be easy to introduce a big change in Israeli public opinion if we know how to deal with it and understand its accumulations in the past 4 decades.

The National Charter represents the dream. My dream is to establish a democratic state in Palestine. However, can I fulfill the dream from the diaspora in which we live? Can the uprising alone fulfill this dream? Therefore, I say with a loud voice that there must be a realistic program that will make the Israeli feel that we actually want to coexist with him, after which the Israeli and Palestinian people will decide their future choice.

I have made a statement on Resolution 181, the partition resolution issued in 1947 calling for the establishment of two states in Palestine. The leader of the Peace Now Movement replied to my statement in an article entitled: "How Long Will When Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] Hand Continue To Be Extended for Peace?" This was in regard to Resolution 181, the partition resolution. He considered my statement as new progress. He referred to my meeting with him in 1983.

In his article, he said: "The Israelis who met Abu Iyad at the time—and the Peace Now Movement leader was one of them—were divided after the meeting into two groups. One group considered Abu Iyad's statement to be for consumption only, that it was unbelievable and did not reflect an actual stand. The other group believed his proposals." He commented on my statement by saying it proves Abu Iyad was sincere in what we heard from him in 1983.

In brief, I say there is a peace movement in Israel that must be developed by a realistic peace program that does not include ridiculous slogans. It is not enough to say I want to establish a Palestinian state. I must settle all the debts to the international community that resulted from the June 1967 war. Our mind is open to a political program that does not include complexes.

Some say: What about the charter? In fact, those do not want a charter or anything of this kind. There is no provision in the National Charter calling for the destruction of Israel. It is only the Zionist propaganda that

speaks about this. The charter defines the border of Palestine on paper and what I want is to regain part of what is defined by the charter in an actual and tangible manner. This is the issue.

Khalaf Warns Israel Against S. Lebanese State

NC1710084888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has denied there is a clause in the Palestinian charter calling for the destruction of Israel, though the latter has no constitution outlining its borders, which the Israelis want the PLO to recognize. The Palestinian official emphasized the PLO's readiness to discuss everything within the framework of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH published today, Abu Iyad said the PLO will go ahead with its program regardless of whether Labor or Likud wins the coming Israeli elections.

He hoped there are couragous men in Israel who want to preserve the rights of the Jews and enable them to live in the region. He said Palestinians will continue to reach out to the Israelis to establish a just and comprehensive peace.

The Palestinian official warned Israel against declaring a state in southern Lebanon in the event an independent Palestinian state is declared. He called for ending intervention in Lebanese domestic issues.

Communique Issued on Fatah Tunis Meeting

LD1510185388 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Oct 88

["Text" of a communique on the fourth Fatah "Martyr Abu Jihad" conference, held in Tunis 10-12 October]

[Text] Under the slogan "The uprising will continue until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital" and the slogan "No voice should be higher than the voice of the uprising," Fatah held an administrative regional conference in Tunisia 10-12 October which included Fatah representatives, regional secretaries, the basic cadres of the popular organizations, active central organs, the military council, and also members of the Revolutionary Council and the Central Committee.

They discussed the issue of the blessed uprising and the flaming popular revolution inside occupied Palestine and the means to support, escalate, and continue it until the achievement of the national aims of the proven inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, including the right to return, self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The discussions also included current political developments and new events which stemmed from Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Palestinian Bank and the new detente conditions in the world, in light of the Palestinian national struggle placing the Palestinian issue at the top of the agenda of the two superpowers, the UN Security Council, and the UN General Assembly.

The conference heard comprehensive reports about the uprising and the current political situation on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels from Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], and Abu Shakir [Rafiq al-Natshah].

For 3 days the discussion concentrated on the uprising and the heroic struggle of our brave people within occupied Palestine and what the uprising and the armed popular revolution have achieved through willpower and stones, and through all the available struggle means, which are supported by the armed struggle operations.

The reports, discussions, and addresses stressed the need for effective participation in inventing new and developed means and methods of struggle in all arenas to suppy the uprising with the necessary material, political, information, and military support. They also stressed the need for our aim to be to defeat the enemy and to achieve Palestinian national independence, to adopt suitable measures, and to continue the struggle and work toward supporting this struggle.

The exiled brothers' addresses and the document they presented to the conference had great effect, leading the discussion to concentrate on using all the sources of our movement and revolution to their full capacity in supporting the uprising and developing the revolutionary invention at all levels, which will secure the continuation of the uprising, make the Palestinian issue impose itself with greater momentum, and support the struggle march of the Palestinian people toward the achievement of their aims of liberation, return, and an independent democratic Palestinian state.

The conference saluted our long-suffering struggling people within occupied Palestine, in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Gallilee, and Negev, and in every village, town and camp.

Greetings to all our imprisoned, detained, wounded, and exiled heroes. Greetings to every old man, woman, and child. Greetings to all sectors of our people: students,

youths, workers, teachers, farmers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, writers, journalists, and artists and to all trade unions and associations in our occupied land.

Greetings to all our brothers and friends who support our uprising. The promise was and will remain a promise; the oath was and will remain the oath until the achievement of the historic aims of our great people and glorious nations.

Long live the blessed uprising. Long live the armed popular revolution. Long live our leading vanguard movement—Fatah. Long live our heroic Palestinian people. Glory and immortality to our martyrs. It is a revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

'Source' on Moves To Increase Output Quotas

LD1710134388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1110 GMT 17 Oct 88

[By Shamel Khairi]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Arab Gulf OPEC members will be seeking to raise the organization's output ceiling to anywhere between 18.5 million barrels a day (MBD) and 19 [words indistinct] OPEC oil ministers meet in Vienna next month, a ranking Gulf Oil industry source said Monday.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates will argue in favor of a new OPEC ceiling "that would realistically cope with the actual demand on the international market," according to the source who wished not to be named.

The five producers believe the proposed ceiling of 18.5-19 MBD would help OPEC solve the problems of quota breaches, as market sources estimate the actual OPEC production at about 20 MBD, compared with the group's 15.06 MBD formal ceiling, he said.

According to the source, the new ceiling would clear the way for four possibilities:

—Meeting Iraq's demand for quota party with Iran so that each produces 2.369 MBD.

—That production increases be distributed among OPEC's 13 members in proportion with their individual quotas.

—And that the organization be better prepared to defend its current official benchmark price of 18 dollars per barrel.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council states, which include four OPEC members, said in a statement in Riyadh last night they were ready to commit themselves to an OPEC ceiling of 17.429 MBD, in the first such reference to a ceiling rise.

The statement which was released at the end of a meeting for the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman, added that the six would also approve any "higher" ceiling to be agreed upon by all members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries.

The GCC countries, however, had two conditions: that output increases be distributed proportionally among the 13 members and that all members abide by their assigned shares.

By suggesting the 17.429 MBD celing, the GCC states were apparently showing a implicit approval that Iraq's quota be raised to match Iran's 2.369 MBD share.

Iraq (?has been) out of the OPEC overall output ceiling since it rejected its quota in [word indistinct] and demanded a larger share.

The source further told KUNA, however, that some OPEC countries were likely to oppose an OPEC output hike claiming the move would hurt the official price of 18 dollars.

The source, defending the proposed ceiling hike, said the more OPEC producton drops below international demand, the greater the chance for the group's members to violate their official quotas.

Algeria

'Arafat, Bendjedid Discuss 'Recent Developments'

LD1710183088 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, had lengthy talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this morning.

According to a Palestinian official source, the Palestinian-Algerian talks dealt with recent developments in the Palestinian situation at Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The two sides also discussed the situation in the occupied territories in light of the stepping up of the Palestinian people's uprising.

The source also said that brother leader Abu 'Ammar informed President Chadli Bendjedid about the steps adopted during the recent Palestinian meetings with regard to the convening of an emergency session of the Palestinian National Council, and the future Palestinian intention to declare an independent Palestinian state.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar pointed out in a brief statement that his talks with the Algerian president were important and positive. They dealt with the developments of the Palestinian issue and ways of supporting the Palestinian people's uprising.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that he briefed the Algerian president on steps taken at Palestinian, Arab, and international level in view of the declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Brother President Chadli Bendjedid reiterated Algeria's firm and principled stand in support of the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people for the recovery of their legitimate national rights and setting up their independent state.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Algiers this morning accompanied by Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee.

Justice Minister: More Than 3000 Face Trial

LD1710110988 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] There were some 50 Algerians tried yesterday but all in all there are more than 3000 Algerians who have been or are going to be tried if the authorities can be believed. Here is Philippe Lesmaries:

[Lesmaries] Yes, according to Algerian Justice Minister Cherif Kharroubi, who gives very precise figures in an interview with LE FIGARO this morning, 3740 people have been brought before the courts, 720 have already been tried, and 920 have been released with or without trial. So, these are the figures given by the Algerian minister who, moreover, is intent on pointing out an error: There have never been any special courts for trying the rioters or the looters of the last few weeks in Algeria. They are brought before the ordinary county courts.

According to the minister, in the beginning defendants were brought to court in accordance with emergency procedures so as to avoid lengthy delays and—these are the minister's own words—and then it was the emergency procedure—and that alone—that was given up later following a government's decision so that the trials could continue undisrupted. So, it was not the trials themselves which were ended, contrary to what was believed a few days ago.

Minister Kharroubi also makes it clear that many of those accused are under age and that the magistrates have in fact shown great understanding towards them because, in general, they have handed them over to their parents. Things may go differently as far as some adults are concerned, he said, those caught red handed while setting setting fire and looting who sometimes have a long criminal record. The latter are reported to be around 600. According to the minister, most of the rioters who have already been charged have appealed and the procedure is taking its course. He also says that the Army is currently holding no one. I defy anyone to prove that there are people arbitrarily detained in this country, he says. Finally, he also says that the Human Rights League is currently being allowed to visit any prisoner it wants to see.

Views Trial of Rioters

LD1710111488 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The daily EL MOUDJAHID this morning published an interview with the justice minister devoted to the procedure involved in trying persons arrested during the recent riots. In this interview Mr Kharroubi admits that these trials are special due to the number of those accused and the circumstances of their arrest. But at no moment was there any question of special courts, he stressed. The procedure followed is the normal one, the one that has always been in use. Regarding anxieties expressed as to observance of the right to defense, the justice minister reiterated that all the defendants' rights to defense will be observed.

'Several Hundred' Rioters Reportedly Tried

LD1810013288 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Broadcast in progress]...all rights of defense and it is this point in particular that is stressed by Maitre Miloud Brahimi, the president of the Human Rights League, in an interview with [reporter] Malik Abouchur:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Abouchur] Can you give us a figure for the number of people who have already been tried up to the present time?

[Brahimi] Listen, according to reports which have reached me just today, I know that several hundred have been tried. About 200 people have already been tried before the Annaba Court alone. The sentences range from acquittal for a few of them to heavy sentences of up to 10 years imprisonment for others. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Listed

LD1710205888 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1944 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: Peace and God's blessing be upon you all.

In accordance with the contents of the speech made by the president of the Republic to the nation on 10 October, and in accordance with the statement issued on 12 October, the Presidency of the Republic today published a proposal to amend those parts of the Constitution that concern the executive. This amendment will be submitted to the people in a referendum to be held on 3 November. This constitutional amendment falls within the first phase of the embodiment of the political reforms announced by the head of state.

The proposed amendment:

Article 5 [of the Constitution]: The national sovereignty belongs to the people. The people exercise this sovereignty through referendum. The people exercise this sovereignty also by way of their elected representatives. The president of the Republic can directly refer back to the people's will.

Article 104: The president of the Republic—the head of state—embodies the unity of the nation. He is the protector of the Constitution. He embodies the state inside and outside the country. He has the right to directly address the nation.

Article 111: The president of the Republic, in addition to the authorities which are openly vested in him by virtue of other provisions in the Constitution, assumes the following authorities and jurisdictions:

First: He is the supreme commander of all the Armed Forces of the Republic.

Second: He assumes the responsibility for national defense.

Third: He decides the nation's foreign policy according to the national charter and constitutional provisions and directs this foreign policy.

Fourth: He appoints the head of government and terminates his duties.

Fifth: He presides over the Council of Ministers.

Sixth: He signs presidential decrees.

Seventh: He appoints people to the civil and military services, according to the law.

Eighth: He has the right to issue pardons and the right to abolish penalties or the right to reduce them and the right to eliminate legal effects, irrespective of their nature, which result from the sentences passed any judicial body.

Ninth: He can call for a popular referendum on any issue of national importance.

Tenth: He can delegate some of his authorities to his deputy or deputies, keeping in consideration the stipulations of Article 116 of the Constitution.

Eleventh: He appoints the ambassadors of the Republic and envoys plenipotentiary abroad and terminates their appointments. He receives credentials of foreign diplomatic representatives and the documents terminating their missions.

Twelfth: He draws up international treaties and ratifies them according to the conditions defined by the Constitution.

Thirteenth: He presents state awards, medals, and certificates of honor.

Articles 113, 114, and 115 are cancelled and replaced as follows:

Article 113: The head of government will draft, coordinate, and implement his government's program. He is responsible to the National People's Assembly.

Article 114/1: The head of government will, after wide consultations, form his government and present his choice of members to the president of the Republic who appoints him.

Article 114/2: The head of government will present his program to the National People's Assembly for ratification. The National People's Assembly will hold general discussions of the program presented. The head of government can modify his program in light of this discussion.

Article 114/3: In the event the National People's Assembly rejects the proposed program, the head of the government will submit his government's resignation to the president of the Republic. The president of the Republic will appoint a new head of government according to the same process.

Article 114/4: If the head of the government's action program again fails to win the agreement of the National People's Assembly, the assembly will be dissolved by law. Legislative elections will then be organized with a maximum deadline of 3 months.

Article 114/5: The government will present to the National People's Assembly a yearly statement on general policy. This statement will be followed by a general discussion on the government's work. The National People's Assembly can conclude this discussion with a bill [lay'ihah]. The head of the government may ask for a vote of confidence.

Article 115/1: The head of government will, in addition to the authority explicitly invested in him by other provisions in the Constitution, exercise the following authorities:

First: He will distribute authority between the members of the government with due respect for the provisions of the Constitution.

Second: He will chair the cabinet.

Third: He will ensure the implementation of law and of organizations.

Fourth: He will sign executive decrees.

Fifth: He will make appointments to state posts in accordance with the law.

Article 115/2: The head of government may present his government's resignation to the president of the Republic.

Article 116: The president of the Republic cannot, in any case whatsoever, delegate his authority in the nomination of a vice president or vice presidents, the head of government and its members, or in relieving them of their duties, or in the conducting of a referendum, or in the dissolution of the National People's Assembly, or in the organization of early legislative elections, or in the implementation of the laws stipulated in Articles 119-124 of the Constitution. Likewise, this applies to powers defined in Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 of Article 111 of the Constitution.

Article 147: The People's National Assembly may be summoned to meet at an extraordinary session on an initiative from the president of the Republic, on request from two-thirds of the Assembly's members, or from the head of government. The extraordinary session winds up as soon as the People's National Assembly finishes discussing the agenda for which it has been summoned to debate.

Article 148: The head of government and members of the People's National Assembly may initiate laws. The proposed laws may be accepted for discussion if they are approved for discussion by 20 representatives. The government proposes draft laws to the office of the People's National Assembly.

Article 153: The president of the Republic can, in accordance with the prime minister's recommendations, proceed and order [as heard]; the government will present the bills, which are taken in this manner, to the People's National Assembly's first subsequent session for adoption.

Article 155: This article will be renumbered 154 and will be worded as follows: The prime minister can ask for a second examination of the bill, which has already received a vote, not later than 30 days after its adoption [as heard]. In this case a bill can only be adopted by two-thirds of the People's National Assembly members.

Article 154: This article will be renumbered 155, with no amendments.

Article 156: The president of the Republic can address the People's National Assembly.

Article 157: The People's National Assembly can, following a recommendation by the president of the Republic, by the prime minister, or by the speaker of the assembly, proceed with a foreign policy discussion. If necessary, this discussion can lead to the adoption of a bill by People's National Assembly which will convey the bill to the president of the Republic via the Assembly speaker.

The draft proposals for amending the Constitution end. Thank you for your attention.

Egypt

'Shift' in Fundamentalist Demonstration Tactics

NC1810090788 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Oct 88 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Cairo—Amin Radwan—Hundreds of members of fundamentalist groups demonstrated in Cairo yesterday to protest sharp increases in the prices of basic commodities and to demand that torture of imprisoned fundamentalists be stopped and that they be freed.

Egyptian security forces confronted the demonstrators. A policeman was injured and six demonstrators were arrested.

Hundreds of citizens took part in the demonstration alongside the fundamentalists, chanting slogans denouncing the price rises.

The demonstrators marched through heavily-populated districts, moving from Ramsis Street to the working class area of Bulaq, Bulaq al-Jadid Street, Wakalat al-Balah, and the workshops area of Al-Sabtiyah.

Observers noted that, unlike previous fundamentalist demonstrations, this one did not start after Friday prayers or set out from universities. This departure from

the usual pattern has been attributed to a desire by the fundamentalists to eschew clashes with security forces permanently stationed near mosques and universities.

Three other phenomena characterized this demonstration. First: Average citizens took part in it. Second: Fundamentalists marched under social slogans, such as the fight against high prices, unemployment, and corruption, shedding their customary slogans which give prominence to ethical issues, such as the question of how women should dress. Third: The slogans this time called on all political organizations and popular forces in Egypt to take immediate action to fight the steep rise in prices and to stop the arrests. This openness to other political forces is considered unprecedented.

Observers see the Saturday demonstration as reflecting a recent shift in the political thinking of religious groups which aims at turning these groups into a broad political movement, capable of challenging the legitimate political parties and threatening the regime itself in the future. [passage omitted]

Ghali Addresses African Seminar on Human Rights
NC1710115488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that unleashing the potentials of the African citizen and deepening respect for his political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights represent the only way to rid African communities of backwardness and push them toward the horizons of progress. He added: Only this will ensure that these communities catch up with the process of development and technology and make up for what they have missed in the past.

Speaking during the opening session of the fourth African seminar of the Committee for the Rights of the African Peoples and Citizens currently held in Cairo, Dr Ghali said Africa today clearly and unequivocably realizes that the history of mankind is closely related to that of freedom. Whenever freedom flourishes, he added, talents in science, culture, and arts prosper, giving rise to civilizations. He noted that Africa, which was the victim of the intransigence of colonialism and the repression of racism, and which still confronts an unjust regime of apartheid and exploitation in South Africa and Namibia, knows more than anyone the importance of defending human rights as a pillar without which no peace in our continent or the world can be attained. He noted in this respect Africa's belief that the rights of the individual and the rights of peoples are inseparable and indivisible, and that defending any of these causes is a matter that concerns all individuals and all countries in the entire world.

Dr Ghali pointed out in his speech that Egypt was among the first African countries to endorse the African Charter for Human Rights and the Rights of the Peoples issued by the 18th African summit held in Nairobi in 1981. Egypt also led a campaign to urge its sisterly African countries to follow suit. He added: We in Egypt deeply believe that the dignity, freedom, and natural rights of the individual are the essence of the entire life, without which national independence and freedom would be void. We also believe that respect for law and human rights reflects the group's conscience and its civilization. [passage omitted]

PLO Officials Arrive in Cairo 17 Oct
NC1710182988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1803 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—PLO Deputy Chairman [title as received] 'Abdallah al-Hurani and PLO National Committee Secretary Hasan 'Asfur arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit to Egypt expected to last for several days.

Hurani said upon his arrival that he will meet with Egyptian officials to brief them on the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the results of the visit which a PLO delegation recently paid to Moscow.

The Palestinian guests were welcomed at the airport by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative and PLO charge in Cairo, and Usamah Sharab, the official in charge of Palestinian media in Cairo.

Israeli Requests on Maneuvers, Tabah Rejected
JN1710210888 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Oct 88 pp 1, 30

[Text] Cairo—Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and defense minister, has refused to receive an Israeli military delegation currently visiting Cairo to request that joint maneuvers be conducted.

AL-ANBA' has learned from informed sources that Egypt also rejected two other Israeli requests in return for speeding up the return of Tabah to Egypt. The first request calls for allowing the Israelis to enter the Tabah area with identity cards and for considering Tabah an open area. The second request pertains to preventing the obstruction of tourist groups' arrival in Sinai from Israel. The Egyptian side affirmed that the two Israeli requests violate Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah.

On the other hand, Israeli patrols have noticeably intensified their activity on the border in the area between the Palestinian part of Rafah and Ra's al-Naqab, where the Egyptian survey authority is paving a road adjacent to the border between Rafah and Tabah. Attempts to abuse Egyptians working on this road occur daily.

Moroccan Commerce Minister Departs 18 Oct
NC1810100388 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0935 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Moroccan Commerce Minister Abdallah Azmati left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he attended the Islamic trade fair.

In a predeparture statement, Moroccan official said he had seized the opportunity to visit Cairo to review with Egyptian officials developments in bilateral trade and ways to promote it. He was seen off at the airport by Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa.

'Positive Development' Noted in U.S. Attitude
NC1710142588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb]

[Text] There has been a positive development in the U.S. outlook toward the Palestinian issue, represented by two points: First, the United States has admitted that the Palestinians should assume responsibility for their political and economic affairs once the Israeli occupation forces withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Second, the United States has also admitted that the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories look to the PLO as their representative and that it is inconceivable that the Palestinians would renounce the PLO.

Having explained this new, positive, and advanced U.S. outlook toward the Palestinian issue, we wish to discuss a third point. Speaking before an ad hoc congressional committee, Richard Murphy has stated that the PLO's intention to accept the 1947 UN Resolution 181 will not legitimize the establishment of a Palestinian state, because no state existed when the partition resolution was issued.

We would like to explain several points regarding the partition resolution. First, Palestine did exist. Palestine's placement under British mandate proves this historic fact, which does not need further clarification, discussion, or assertion. Second, the partition resolution brought into existence the state of Israel on the very land of the Palestinian state under the British mandate. This means that the resolution created a new state beside the Palestinian state, situated on Palestinian territory. Third, if Israel considers the partition resolution its birth certificate and the legal pretext for its existence, this resolution should also be a birth certificate for the Palestinian state, though this birth has been delayed for over 40 years.

We want to clarify a fact for everyone, especially the U.S. public: Fear of the establishment of a Palestinian state on the basis of the 1947 partition resolution is due to the belief of many in Israel and the United States that this state would be established in accordance with partition boundaries established in the same resolution.

However, we believe that this U.S. and Israeli concept is basically wrong. When the Palestinians call for a Palestinian state on the basis of Resolution 181, they do not plan to establish this state in accordance with the partition boundaries, they merely want to note the principle of the establishment of a Palestinian state, side by side with the Israeli state. The Palestinians are merely adhering to the international legality represented by the partition resolution, on the basis of which Israel was established and from which it derives its legality. In other words, the aim behind the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state on the basis of this resolution is to remind the world public that there is a UN resolution providing for the establishment of two adjacent states.

The PLO's intention to declare a Palestinian state on the basis of Resolution 181 does not violate international legality. The PLO is merely applying a resolution more important than UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which the United States and Israel do not cease urging the PLO to recognize scrupulously.

AL-AKHBAR Reacts to Murphy's Remarks on PLO
JN1710210288 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
16 Oct 88 p 5

[Editorial: "... A Witness of Her Household!"]

[Text] Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, has stated that the United States cannot ignore the PLO or deny that the Palestinians consider it an expression of their identity, and it is difficult for Washington to expect these people to abandon their organization.

This is an explicit recognition of the PLO's role and a clear confirmation of a fact that is accepted not only by the other countries but also by a large segment of the Israeli population, no matter how much the Tel Aviv government and its prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, try to deny it. Murphy stressed in his statement that a solution must be found for the Palestine question and that the Palestinians should participate in formulating this solution. He also pointed to the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories following the eruption of the uprising.

During his recent meeting with the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in New York, U.S. President Ronald Reagan stressed that the Palestinian people have a right to self-determination and that the land that has been occupied by force should be returned to its owners. This is the same opinion stressed by the leaders of other states, headed by the U.S. allies in Western Europe. This U.S. stand comes at a time when intensive efforts by influential international quarters are being exerted to

promote the idea of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East, considering it the best forum for accomplishing this task.

Although U.S. President Reagan and his government are in their last months in power and although it is customary not to make any significant decisions on foreign policy during these months, any clear stand by President Reagan indicating his support for the idea of an international conference will have its impact on any new president of the United States, particularly if that man turns out to be the person he has nominated to succeed him.

Libya

26 Oct Declared National Day of Mourning

LD1710214488 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] In accordance with the directives of the basic people's congresses, 26 October will be observed every year as a day of mourning to mark the painful anniversary of the suffering of the Libyan people at the hands of the tyrant colonialists. On that day in 1911 Italy, after invading and occupying Libya, exiled about 4,000 Libyan Arab citizens to Italy in unimaginably bad health and living conditions. As a result of this many perished. All of this was aimed at realizing the inhuman aims of conquering and enslaving this people. [passage omitted]

To mark this painful anniversary the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport has issued the following decisions:

1. All local and international air services on 26 October will stop from 0600 to 1800. This applies to all airports of the Jamahiriyah and to all the operating airlines.

2. All international telephone and telegram communications will stop on this day between 0600 and 1800 as an expression of sorrow and mourning over the painful consequences against human society caused by this inhuman behavior and to remind the world so this may not happen again in any human society in any part of the world. The international community is called upon to pause and think about this painful anniversary.

All departments and all international bodies, organizations, and companies have been notified of these decisions, we wish the human community all happiness in light of the teachings of the third universal theory and its green book.

[Signed] The General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport.

JANA Editor Criticizes U.S., VOA

LD1710210788 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 17 Oct 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tumur [October] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Voice of American Radio (VOA) yesterday broadcasted a commentary expressing the point of view of the U.S. Government attacking the states which reject U.S. policy and domination, on top of which is Great Jamahiriyah.

The U.S. Government called on those states to cooperate with what it called "the civilised world" to put an end to what it termed as "international terrorism."

JANA's world affairs editor commented on that by saying:

"Here, we ask about the American concept of civilisation, does it mean the manufacturing of atom bombs and various weapons of destruction to destroy the world? Or is civilisation, in the American concept, is the preparation of the "AIDS" disease in the laboratories and try it on prisoners held in U.S. prisons and then spread it the world over?

Or, is civilisation to them is the exporting of 12 million rats to Egypt, because it is an allied country which opened its door wide to receive their soldiers and their wastes?

Or is U.S. civilisation means the multiplication of Asian beetles and plant it in a number of regions to bring deadly plagues and diseases on mankind? And is the American civilisation, which calls us to cooperate with, is the raid on Libya using tens of strategic bombers killing innocent children in both Tripoli and Banghazi cities and to get the leader of our revolution and his family? Or the concept of U.S. Western civilisation is the beseiging of Nicaragua, fighting it and depriving its small people of self- determination exposing it daily to the most vicious unequal battles led by the U.S. President himself?

Or is your colonisation of Western Europe after World War II is the civilisation you are calling on world nations to join and cooperate with? Or is the annihilation of the red Indians, the pursuing of race discrimination policy against the blacks, the looting of workers' efforts and the supporting of the Zionist terrorists in occupied Arab Palestine are the humane principles this civilisation is based upon?"

He said: "The countries that the U.S. attack are anticolonialist, against man manipulation of his brother and reject race discrimination and the colonialist domination the U.S. Administration in trying to impose upon the world nations.

"The fabrication of charges and the lies voiced every day against anyone whose stances and policies you do not like are no longer feasible, now that the world has become fully aware of who the terrorists are and who are those endeavouring to destroy humanity ruin the earth and kill man everywhere."

The editor added: "The repetition of such American claims in the talk about civilisation and its concept has become exposed and a ridiculous example, because the United States was embodied on earth as a vicious tyrannical example which day by day disregards man's values and its high ideals.

"America today has become an example of tyranny and aggression, under the eyes of the human race, against all the nations of the earth disregarding all obligations imposed by humane civilised laws. The U.S. Administration has turned into the brutal symbol of harmony with the Zionist thought, which is originally and ideologically hostile to any seed of goodness that springs here or there.

"The U.S. Administration in its true composition does not have a political will that expresses the American people's spirit, but it is a tool in the hand of the Zionist influence that uses all the U.S. tools of atrocities for its ambition. This is very clear, in the official conduct of U.S. Administration's officials who are hostages of the Zionist pressure groups.

"The U.S. Administration thus does not have a right to accuse others of terrorism, because it leans upon a series of ideological opportunity laws based upon forms of hypocrisy, deceit and cheating and is trying to hurl its ideological diseases and terrorist practices on others"

JANA's editor of world affairs asserted:

"What makes us most regretful is: Arab dogs bark with the venoms broadcasted by (VOA) against the nations of the world which respect U.S. domination on top of which are the sons of the Arab nation who were burnt by the fires of U.S. hostile policies many times.

"It is a shame that a man sells his home for the sake of his stomach and reiterate what his enemies are righting [as received] in an Arabic tongue.

"If it was surviving and earning bread, we are ready to provide that for them. If those trumpets that blow the poisons of the U.S. Government here and there through the air were Zionist, then we do not blame them for they are in the other side which is hostile to our existence, ambitions and aspirations.

The sons of our Arab nation everywhere must embody a humane example characterised by abiding, honour and the preservation of the genuine Arab traditions that can not accept any of its sons to be involved or in alliance with its enemies.

Working with the media which line constitutes a threat to our Arab nation's destiny and existence is considered a shameful dead and a direct involvement in such aggression.

"Arabs who work in American media must sense the dangers of the American Zionist information drive and the taking of a stance towards such matter will be an expression of the true belonging of such Arabs to their Arab nation."

Information Secretary Receives Saudi Counterpart

LD1710165988 Tripoli JANA in English
1452 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Jeddah, Al-Tumur [October] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture has met today his Saudi Arabian counterpart, 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

The meeting focussed on the bilateral information cooperation relations and ways for promoting them, apart from some topics that are of concern in the information cooperation field among the Arab countries and the Islamic world.

Mention should be made that the information and culture secretary of People's Committee attended earlier the meetings of the Islamic Conference held in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

Morocco

King Receives Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan

LD1710205488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] At the royal palace in Ifrane this afternoon His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, received Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and chairman of the Palestine National Council's external relations committee. He was accompanied by the PLO representative in Morocco, Abu Marwar. The meeting was attended by the king's advisers Ahmed Ridha Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda, and Mohamed Aouad.

Portuguese Prime Minister Arrives; Meets Laraki

LD1610210488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva this afternoon arrived in Rabat leading an important delegation for an official visit to Morocco which will last until the 19th of this month. The Portuguese prime minister was welcomed upon arrival at Rabat-Sale airport by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

Mr Cavaco Silva, in an arrival statement, expressed his happiness at his visit to Morocco at the invitation of the Moroccan prime minister. He added that Dr Azzedine

Laraki's visit to Portugal last year was an opportunity to lay down new bases to bolster the two countries' relations, pointing out his current visit to Morocco would deepen further such relations. [passage omitted]

Cavaco Silva pointed out that this visit will be an opportunity for the Portuguese officials accompanying him to sign with their Moroccan counterparts agreements in the fields of transportation, investment, and other economic sectors.

Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki has had tete-a-tete talks with his Portuguese counterpart. [passage omitted]

Begins Talks With Laraki

LD1710165488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Official talks between the prime minister and his Portuguese counterpart have begun. The two prime ministers today chaired an extended working session of the two countries' delegations.

This morning, before the working session, Dr Azzedine Laraki received at the prime minster's office Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who is on an official visit to our country until 19 October. Talks between the two sides concerned the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and, on the Portuguese side, by Portugal's ambassador in Rabat, Jorge Rito, and members of the Portuguese delegation, including Antonio Marta, diplomatic adviser to the Portuguese prime minster.

The two prime ministers then held an extended working session at the government council hall. Attending the session were Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada, Ocean Fisheries and Merchant Marine Minister Bensalem Smili, Transportation Minister Mohamed Bouamoud, Minister Delegate for Economic Affairs Moulay Zine Zahidi, Minister of Energy and Mines Mohamed Fettah, Minister of Cultural Affairs Mohamed Benaissa, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ahmed Cherkaoui, Minister of State for the EEC Mohamed Seqat, and His Majesty's Ambassador in Portugal Abdelhakim Laraki.

On the Portuguese side, the session was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Minister of Commerce and Tourism Joaquim Ferreira de Amaral, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Duardo, Minister of State for Information Albino Suarez, and Portugal's Ambassador in Rabat Jorge Rito.

The two prime ministers emphasized the positive and constructive role of the historical and deep ties which distinguish relations between the two countries and the need to strengthen and develop these relations so they may cover various areas of cooperation. The two sides also praised the work of the joint Moroccan-Portuguese commission.

They also spoke of the importance of the special projects specified in the cooperation agreements, the role of Portugal regarding Morocco's relations with the EC, and the distinguished location of the two countries in the Mediterranean Sea basin [as heard]. They also spoke of the role of Morocco and Portugual in the European, Arab, and African arenas. The two prime ministers emphasized the need to continue efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and in southern Africa in light of the current international detente.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Interviewed on War, Peace Strategy

EA1810041588 Omdurman International Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Welcome to our press review. Today's review is devoted to a lengthy interview carried by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH with Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister. Due to the importance of the interview, we are going to review all the questions and the answers given by Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. [passage omitted]

AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH asked the prime minister about some current priority issues, such as the war and peace strategy, the positions of the rebel movement, Sudanese national security issues, relations with neighboring countries and issues connected with those, and then some issues on local politics.

The war and peace strategy, a question by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH: The rebel movement has a clear war strategy for which they plan and provide resources, and they have no peace plan. In return the state has a clear peace plan, however its war plans are not clear. What is your comment?

His excellency the prime minister answered: I believe that our country has a clear peace plan.

We are a responsible government that has to support peace efforts, particularly because we recognize that there are inherited problems concerning the relationship, such as the Arab-African identity, the fair distribution of power and wealth, and the question of determining an ideal constitutional system for Sudan.

We deny that there is a civil war, in the sense seen by others as a war between Muslims and Christians, or Arabs and Negroes, or north and south. We prove that by the fact that most of those fleeing from the fighting are fleeing to the north, which indicates that they do not consider the north as a religious, racial or regional enemy.

It has been very clear to us that the rebel movement will never accept peace unless it finds it impossible to achieve a military victory, because it is a foreign-backed terrorist group. Therefore as long as it is characterized by these two features, it will never accept cooperation unless it is faced with a military deadlock. That is why, since the beginning of democratic rule, it has been clear to the Armed Forces that we are working to reinforce them so that they are able to face all the rebel designs, to thwart these designs, and to work to extend the powers of the government in the various areas.

We believe that the Armed Forces have succeeded completely in foiling the rebels' military plans, namely: to capture the big towns in the south, cut communication lines between the north and south, halt farming in productive areas, and carry the military operation to the north. The Armed Forces have succeeded in completely defeating these objectives.

In my view, if we want the Armed Forces to achieve a final victory over the rebel movement, this would require armed forces many times greater than we currently have. This is because the south alone is the size of the whole of Nigeria. Therefore the military operations carried out so far have been confined to spreading power over the main areas, containing the rebel military targets, and protecting means of communication.

To say that we have to have a military plan to completely eradicate the rebel movement would require two things: the first means the increasing of our Armed Forces many times over and the second means a positive stand on the part of all our neighbours, because whatever our ability is to extend our security powers, the movement could find pockets and refuges in some neighbouring countries to maintain its existence.

In the political leadership, while we are keen to achieve the maximum possible, we leave the military plan for containing the situation and spreading security to the Armed Forces without interference. I think the existence of a clear peace strategy does not prevent the existence of a clear military plan to contain the rebellion. This is because the rebels are the aggressors and with their foreign backing they are attempting to create a military reputation by targeting certain military posts of the Armed Forces in order to create an embarrassment.

But, in the final analysis, the question about the value of such actions remains because eventually the situation can not possibly be contained, because the movement relies on foreign circles and wants to achieve certain military success and then take further initiatives in this respect.

We are now reviewing what should be done in order to close the door on opportunities which the movement has succeeded in using by concentrating on certain sites and embarrassing us by besieging them or evacuating them. We hope to close these doors and deprive the movement of such opportunities, which it made use of in the past.

I have no doubt at all that the Armed Forces were able to contain the main targets of the rebel movement through a clear and definite plan. We say that it is high time for the Sudanese political leadership to draw up a single strategy encompassing the whole situation. This is in order to determine the military, political, diplomatic, and administrative roles so as to take everything into consideration and prevent any sort of conflict or contradiction between the different policies, with the aim of carring out the desired security plan and allowing the peace plan to be activated if appropriate circmstances prevail.

What the rebel movement is carrying out now is a plan aimed at propaganda, while the aim of military plans is never simply to create propaganda. The movement has no strategic peace plan and its military operations are concentrated on embarrassment and propaganda rather than on determined objectives. On the other hand, we have a definite peace plan and a definite plan to contain the situation. But we are in need of a comprehensive plan that ensures harmony between the different aspects.

Support from the East and West: Question by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH: The East and the West support the rebellion directly and unequivocally, how did the two joint together on that?

Answer by Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi: doubtless, there are eastern elements which support the rebellion. That came about because the movement appeared to be in a position that prompted the countries of the Aden Pact to adopt it. Since then, it has been known that some Western circles are keen to intensify the contradictions between Africa north of the Sahara and Africa south of the Sahara. Some Western circles assist any type of move that would widen this gap.

Then there are church circles which believe that a natural relationship between the north and the south would lead to a spread of Islam. Secondly there are adventurous capitalist companies such as Lonrho that believe that they could obtain concessions from more African leaders to exploit natural resources. Israel also exerts every effort to strengthen instability in the Arab area. These are the reasons which prompted all these forces to rush in to support the movement.

This does not mean agreement between them as much as an attempt by each of them to exploit the movement for their own purposes. In my judgment, the movement is ideologically empty, an armed movement which possesses some military technology and has created a military presence for itself which various forces attempt to use for their own interests.

This situation, though seemingly a source of strength for the movement, is equally a source of great weakness, since it means that it is drawn in different directions by other interests. It is necessary to understand that this is

contradictory, and we have to work on it so that the forces that the state can influence will be neutral. We have to be clear in our denial of a racial or religious conflict. [passage omitted]

AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH: There have been conflicting reports about Garang's acceptance of negotiations, whereas you officially received information from Uganda about that. The rebels' radio has repeated a denial of that. What is the position?

Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi: Our democratic country is open. We have no problems over negotiations. Garang, as a rebel and an armed aggressor, must be fought without limits and without reservations, for he is an aggressor and relies on foreign forces. At the same time, if he or a mediator comes, desiring negotiation, peace, and reconciliation on a just basis, then we have no reservations. [passage omitted]

But we do not have reservations in accepting the idea of the meeting, in spite of our knowledge of the existence of other circles that decide these things over Garang's head. If the decision is really made by the rebel movement, then it has one of three options: either to try to occupy all of Sudan—and it knows that that is impossible because such attempts will increase the relentlessness of the north, and it has no support in the north except those elements which are trying to benefit from the movement and to use it for specific political and partisan purposes—or its aim is to separate the south, like Biafra. But the south itself is divided; hence, it cannot control all the south.

The third option remains—to be able to draw on world attention so that a political agreement will take place which will make it possible to reach a political situation in which there is justice for all. This third option is a possibility and needs no more sacrifices, and there is an acceptance of it. Hence the circles that use the movement for their own purposes have no interest in the third option, since the impossibility of the other two options—the first and second—would show that they are counter to the interests of the movement. The movement does not need more sacrifices to hold the constitutional conference, because at such a conference we will not look at the number of towns that are occupied by the movement [words indistinct] what satisfies the Sudanese and world public opinion.

Some people think that Garang is occupying towns to increase his negotiating strength. But what is he doing with his negotiating strength, since the criteria to which we are addressing ourselves are objective criteria which will not be affected by the fall or occupation of a town?

AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH: You have sat down with Garang before and the outcome of the meeting was not positive. Are there new elements in the political sphere that will enable any forthcoming meeting to be positive?

The Prime Minister: Yes, in that I believe that there are factors, some of which have not yet become clear. They are:

1. It is expected that an understanding will occur between the two superpowes on the need for regional peace in the Horn of Africa region just as we were convinced of the need for regional peace in other areas of the world. This is a factor that has begun to appear.

2. A serious dialogue has begun between the Sudanese and Ethiopian authorities. This dialogue has begun between the Sudanese and Ethiopian authorities. This dialogue can lead to an understanding between the two parties. Whatever their relations with other parties, self interest demands that they agree on peace between them. If this happens, it will have a clear effect.

3. There are the political southern forces which have to date been paralyzed because of Garang's informaton position, so when many of them speak, they do so because of fear of the Garang movement's information position.

In my opinion, some southern tribes have begun to move toward organizing themselves. The outcome of all this could be a united political stand of the southern political forces, which have kept silent for quite some time. The result of this could be an effective role in the negotiations and peace process.

4. There are divisions in the rebel movement itself, and there are some on the continent who disagree with Garang because of the extent of foreign control over the movement. Added to that, considerable numbers from the movement have surrendered.

AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH: Where do you place Joseph Lagus' [former vice president] recent submissions about peace efforts?

Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi: Joseph Lagus' position or that of any other southerner appear much more because some southern politicians want to raise their voices at this stage now that they have seen the damage done to the south and the chances existing for peace under democracy. So they want to speak with a united and loud voice.

In the past most of these people kept themselves very distant for various reasons, which could be due to a lack of clarity in the peace movement or their fear of shari'a. However, matters have now become clear; and it has become clear that we are talking about a specific approach and method.

Perhaps many of these southern politicians have realized an important fact: That is, Garang's attempt to have an Arab-Negro or Christian-Muslim polarization is useless because the Arabs are not a force that can easily be polarized and antagonized. Also, the majority of black Africa is Muslim; therefore polarization is ineffective

since the polarization of Arabs and Muslims on one side would only increase the opposition. So, the ideal is to strive for the integration of all parties' interests.

The interview with Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi continues. We will broadcast part of it in our future programs.

Foreign Minister on Ties With Neighbors

PM1710145188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Oct 88 p 11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr Sulayman Abu Salih by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham; date, place not given]

[Text] [Hisham] After every government statement and the partisan differences that it creates, the feeling which prevails is that Sudan's foreign policy is governed by certain considerations or that it suffers from duplicity. What is your comment?

[Abu Salih] Let me point out that the absolute freedom in Sudan and the freedom of the press, the freedom for individuals and groups to publish what they like without any objection, could give the impression that there is some kind of duplicity or contradiction. The truth remains, however, that what is published in the press represents the views of individuals and sometimes groups; but the Sudanese are proud people and, it should be understood, would under no circumstances subject their sovereignty or will to any power. Sudan's foreign policy is decided by the Sudanese Government, of its own free will and choice, and without any fear. So the talk about settling accounts is naive and unworthy of comment. As regards the question of duplicity, I emphasize that the foreign policy truly represents the position of the ruling national accord parties, which in turn represent 90 percent of the Sudanese people.

[Hisham] How do you explain the argument, at party level, over the statement on unity with Libya?

[Abu Salih] Anyone with any degree of intelligence would realize that calling that statement a "unity declaration" reflects ignorance, because it was nothing more than a call for meetings of committees to decide on special relations between Sudan and Libya. Such relations had in fact already been decided in the national accord charter, but their substance and meaning were not translated into practice because they were not defined. We are now waiting for the Sudanese parties to explain their views.

[Hisham] There are those who believe that raising the issue of unity in the present circumstances has created blocs harmful to Sudan. What is your comment?

[Abu Salih] When Sudan decided to establish balanced relations with the neighboring Arab states it emphasized that it does not believe in blocs, does not wish to be part of any bloc, and always works for Arab solidarity, Arab unity, and joint Arab action.

[Hisham] According to some reports, your mission to Chad was difficult and President Habre had to intervene. What obstacles did you face?

[Abu Salih] My mission to Chad was very easy. We freely, sincerely, and honestly discussed all aspects of Chadian-Sudanese relations. We explained to everyone that there were no objective causes for the frozen relations. We managed to convey, to the brother leaders and ministers in Chad, Sudan's position advocating good-neighborliness, noninterference in international affairs, and not allowing hostile forces to use their territory against anyone. Sudan will never allow any force to violate its territory or sovereignty with a view to mounting hostile action against a neighboring state.

[Hisham] Do you believe that the problem created by the presence of the forces of [Chadian opposition figure] Ibn 'Umar in Sudan is about to be solved?

[Abu Salih] We explained to the brothers in Chad that Ibn 'Umar's forces were considered foreign forces that had entered Sudan and were disarmed by the Sudanese Armed Forces. When we learned that they wished to return to Chad for reconciliation, we passed on their wish to the Chadians. The Chadians have complete faith in the Sudanese Government's good intentions and confidently believe that our visit has cleared much of the dust.

[Hisham] Since you became foreign minister there have been no practical steps toward implementation of the Egyptian-Sudanese fraternity charter. Why?

[Abu Salih] I personally drafted and prepared the fraternity charter over a period of 4 months. I was the only Sudanese representative with a large group of Egyptians. If nothing has been achieved in this period it is because of bureaucracy.

[Hisham] Do the current developments with the neighboring states have anything to do with this delay?

[Abu Salih] The cause of the delay is not political. We only act in the interest of Sudan. When we befriended Egypt, we did so of our own free will with the proviso that we did not do that at the expense of another state.

[Hisham] Sudanese official circles complain about a Western media campaign against Sudan. What, in your view, are the motives of that campaign?

[Abu Salih] Certain quarters have launched a media campaign of lies claiming that Sudan has violated some human rights. We believe that the democratic regime in Sudan is one of the most important in the Third World. I am not bragging, but our regime is a regime of majority rule. It is conciliatory and wants the minority to rest assured that all its rights are protected. To accuse Sudan

of violating human rights is to distort the image of the Sudanese people. We believe that the campaign is not based on the truth and that its aim is to bring the regime to its knees.

SPLA Radio Reports Fall of Army Garrison

EA1710165788 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Fourth Army garrison in the Eastern Equatoria has fallen to the SPLA.

SPLA forces of "Bright Star" campaign under the tactical command of the "Bright Star" campaign commander and direct command of Alternate Commander Obuto Mamur Mete, yesterday, Sunday 16 October 1988, stormed and captured the Sudan Army garrison of Khawar English between Juba and Torit.

Fighting started at 0500 and the garrison fell at 1800 to the gallant forces of "Bright Star" campaign, Torit Brigade. Khawar English is the fourth Army garrison captured by "Bright Star" campaign forces in the last 4 weeks. [passage omitted]

The "Bright Star" campaign commander warns all Army garrisons in Eastern Equatoria to either join the SPLA or evacuate to wherever they choose. Civilians are advised and warned to get out of the town to avoid being caught up in the crossfire. [passage omitted]

Camp Captured in Fangak; 83 Rebels Killed

EA1710220088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Oct 88

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Eighty-three rebels were killed in a battle with the Anya Nya II forces. In the battle, the Anya Nya II forces destroyed the rebel camp at the Atar secondary school in the Fangak area, Upper Nile. Colonel John Boum of the Anyanya movement said that Col Peter (Guwet) commanded the attack against the rebels, which resulted in the school's recapture, on 7 October. The remaining rebels fled to the Akot area.

Col Boum said the rebels carried out a surprise attack in the Mayom area. They were confronted by Anya Nya forces and 70 rebels were killed; 80 others surrendered.

SPLA Radio Reports Meeting With DUP

EA1710220588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Meetings between the SPLM-SPLA and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] delegation began in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, last Saturday, 15 October. The SPLM-SPLA delegation is led by Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the Political Military High Command; Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki, alternate member of the Political Military High Command and zonal commander for Southern Kordofan; and Captain Nhail Denh Nhial, Capt 'Abd al-'Aziz Adam al-Hulu, and Capt Mario Mor Mor, delegation members.

The DUP delegation is led by Mr Sid Ahmad Husayn, deputy secretary general of the DUP; Dr Mamun Sinadah; Mr Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad; retired General Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf; and Mr Abd al-Hakam Tayfur. The meeting is continuing.

Bahrain

ROC Vice Foreign Minister Arrives 16 Oct

OW1610231788 Taipei CNA in English 1432 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, Oct. 16 (CNA)—ROC [Republic of China] Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Shu-chi King, flew into Bahrain Sunday along with his wife for a 3-day official visit.

He was warmly greeted at the gate of the airplane by 'Ali Mahrus, director of the Political Department at Bahraini Foreign Ministry, and Francis Chang, representative of the ROC trade mission. Bahrain is the first stop of King's Middle East tour. He will also come to Riyadh to inaugurate the annual coordination meeting of ROC representatives in the Middle East region early November.

During his stay in Bahrain, King will be received by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. He will call on Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; Habib al Kasim, minister of commerce and agriculture; Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, information minister; and Jawad al-'Urayyid, health minister.

King will also visit the Sino-Bahraini agricultural team and the Ret-Ser Engineering Agency, which is working on a large military project in southern Bahrain.

Delivers Invitation to Amir

JN1710145188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Manama, 17 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, today received a written message from Teng-hui Li, president of the Republic of China [ROC]. The message includes the Chinese president's invitation for the amir of Bahrain to pay an official visit to the ROC. Charles Shu-chi King, ROC vice minister of foreign affairs, handed the amir the message during a meeting in Manama this morning.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1710145688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Manama, 17 Oct (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, today received Charles Shu-chi King, vice minister of foreign affairs in the Republic of China [ROC], who is on a visit to Manama. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in agriculture and education.

The ROC official arrived in Manama yesterday on a visit of several days to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Premier Receives Chief of U.S. Central Command

LD1710112488 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] His highness the prime minister received George Crist, commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, and his delegation at 1015.

The meeting was attended by Chief of General Staff Major-General Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani and the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

Later, Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, met in his office this morning with Gen George Crist and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Maj-Gen Mizyad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani and Defense Ministry Under Secretary Faysal 'Ali al-Dawud.

ARAB TIMES: Decree Establishes 5 Governorates

JN1710165588 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15, (KUNA)—An Amiri decree has been issued to replace a similar one from 1962 on the administrative structure of Kuwait. The new decree, 156/88, stipulates that Kuwait be divided into five governorates, namely the Capital, Hawalli, Al-Ahmadi, Al-Jahrah and Al-Farwaniyah.

The Capital governorate includes the sea coast until the coast opposite the eastern borders of Al-Jahrah Governorate from the north. From the east, it includes the sea coast until the international borders.

From the south, it encompasses the Third Ring Road until Al-Jahrah Road. West, from Umgharah Motorway until Doha Port. It also includes islands of Faylakah, 'Awhah, Maskan, Kubbar, Qaruh, Umm al-Maradim and Umm al-Naml, in addition to the Kuwaiti territorial waters.

The Hawalli Governorate includes all the areas within its borders stretching from the point where the Fourth Ring Road and Maghreb Motorway meet all the way north until the Third Ring Road.

Eastward from Ra's al-Ard area along the coast in a southward direction until the point it meets with the Seventh Ring Road. Southward, from the Seventh Ring Road toward the west until Al-Safar Motorway.

Westward, from the previous point and north through Al-Safar Motorway, until the point it intersects with the Fourth Ring Road.

Al-Farwaniyah Governorate includes from the north, the point where Maghreb Motorway meets the Fourth Ring Road and stretches in a westward direction until it meets Al-Jahrah Road and towards the west through Al-Jahrah Road to the point where it intersects with Al-Sulaybiyah Road.

Westward, from the previous point towards the south until it crosses with the Seventh Ring Road and southward in an easterly direction through the seventh Ring Road until it intersects with Al-Safar Motorway.

The eastern borders of the governorate begin from the previous point in a northward direction through Al-Safar Motorway until the Fourth Ring Road.

As for Al-Jahrah Governorate, it includes the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border from the north. The eastern border starts from the northern international borders along the coast until Al-Manaqish Road.

The southern border begins from Al-Manaqish Road in a westward direction until the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and stretches in a northwestward direction until the point where the Kuwaiti, Saudi and Iraqi borders meet.

The western border starts from the previous point along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi western border. Bubiyan and Warbah islands fall under the jurisdiction of this governorate.

As for the northern border of the fifth and final governorate, Al-Ahmadi, it starts from the point where the coast and the Seventh Ring Road cross and stretches westward until its intersection with Al-Sulaybiyah Road.

The eastern border begins at the point where the coast and the Seventh Ring Road meet and moves southward along the coast until the Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

The southern border starts from the previous point in a northward direction until the coast meets with Al-Rudayfah Desert Road.

The western border begins from Al-Rudayfah Desert Road in a northward direction until it crosses with Al-Manaqish Road. Al-Manaqish Road stretches in an easterly direction until it crosses Al-Sulaybiyah Road and then stretches to the north until Al-Sulaybiyah Road meets the Seventh Ring Road.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Meets Counterpart 14 Oct

LD1410232388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1728 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 14 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah arrived in Riyadh from [word indistinct] Friday evening and immediately went into talks with his Saudi counterpart Hisham Nazir, Radio Riyadh reported. The broadcast would only say the two ministers discussed "issues of common interest," giving no details.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which is sending eight of 13 oil ministers of its members countries to Madrid on October 20 to discuss the group's long-term policies and falling oil prices. An ordinary ministerial OPEC conference is scheduled for November.

Concludes Visit, Leaves

LD1410232888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 14 Oct 88, SPA—Kuwait Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah left Riyadh tonight after meeting His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Hisham Nazir told SPA that they discussed issues related to the 13th meeting of the GCC Permanent Committee on Cooperation.

GCC Oil Ministers Conclude 'Closed' Session

LD1610212788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2022 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Oct (SPA)—The Permanent Ministerial Committee for Petroleum Cooperation consisting of their excellencies the oil ministers of the GCC member states this evening ended its 13th meeting under His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh. The oil ministers held a closed session tonight that lasted about 2 hours. It was attended by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

Cabinet Welcomes GCC Decision

LD1810043588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1749 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired the cabinet meeting today, Monday, 17 October 1988 at Salam Palace in Jiddah.

Following the meeting, the minister of information, Mr 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA: At the beginning of the meeting, as usual, the Council reviewed a short report on the security, economic, and political situation in the region, the latest developments in Lebanon, and the current contacts concerning the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on the report, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following these developments. He expressed hope that some far-reaching, practical proposals would emerge that would give rise to political and economic stability. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir added: On the economic level and in light of the report of His Excellence Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, on the results of the GCC oil ministers committee meeting, the cabinet welcomed the press release of the committee, and regarded it as a positive step on the path towards the continuous endeavor to readjust the oil market situation and improve cooperation to guarantee permanent stability. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Israel Boycott Office Lists Six Foreign Ships

JN1610151888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] The Israel Boycott Office in Dubayy yesterday issued a decision to boycott six foreign ships and to lift the boycott on a seventh ship.

The decision stated that a boycott should be placed on the three Cypriot ships "Princess Marissa," "Sea Mead," and "Caribbic Star"; the German ship "Tawtic"; the Greek ship "Zeam Sidney"; and the Turkish ship "Slicksan." The decision also stated that the boycott on the Philippine ship "Hajanoy" should be lifted. [all names as published]

Chemical Warfare Allegations Termed 'Falsehoods'

JN1710190988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—A reponsible Iraqi source has ridiculed allegations propagated by the imperialist propaganda organs, which are linked to Zionist circles, concerning Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Kurds. He described these allegations as sheer falsehoods.

In a statement to INA today, the source said the tendentious claims by a U.S. medical team on this issue are part of the deceptive, tendentious campaign to discount the decisive Iraqi victory over the Iranian invaders. The Iraqi source recalled official Turkish medical reports and the testimony of a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which belied this clamor and categorically denied finding any evidence of the alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraqi forces.

Concluding, the Iraqi source said the imperialist and Zionist circles, which shed crocodile tears over the Iraqi Kurds, are more aware than others that Iraq granted its Kurdish citizens full political, social, and human rights as part of autonomous rule and provided constitutional institutions that are playing their required role in development and enhancing national unity.

Norwegian Defense Minister Sees Tariq 'Aziz

JN1710175888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Johan Jorgen Holst, Norwegian defense minister, and his delegation this evening. The meeting was also attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary. They discussed bilateral relations and the Norwegian troops operating within the UN observers group to supervise the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

Meets With Military Official

JN1710170288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, received Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst and his delegation today. The meeting was also attended by the Norwegian ambassador in Baghdad. They discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to promote and enhance it to serve the interests of both friendly countries.

The Norwegian defense minister lauded sincere Iraqi endeavors under President Saddam Husayn to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He voiced satisfaction with the requirements and facilities Iraq extends to Norwegian forces operating within the UN observers group entrusted with supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1810112088 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Baghdad, Oct. 18, INA—Mr. Johan Jorgen Holst, Norwegian defence minister and the delegation accompanying him today left Baghdad concluding a three-day visit to Iraq.

Speaking to INA before departure, Mr. Holst extolled Iraq's position toward the current peace negotiations with Iran and Iraq's viewpoint in the negotiations process saying that that is very important in following up implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598 for reaching an agreement ensuring rights of both sides. He added that clearing Shatt al-'Arab, demanded by Iraq is considered a demand confirming confidence to proceed with the process of negotiations and contributing to consecrating ceasefire between the two sides and also assisting the United Nations in carrying out resolution 598.

The Norwegian defence minister said his talks with Iraqi officials were good and enabled him to be acquainted directly with the Iraqi position. "We found our friends in Iraq optimistic over the process of peace and are working for its success", he pointed out.

The defence minister expressed thanks to the Iraqi Government for facilities extended to the UN observers team to secure good performance of their mission. He added that the Norwegian group offered good image on the capability of the Iraqi Army, their good treatment and response with them.

Peres, Rabin Outline Alignment Government Plan

TA1710120588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Labor Party leaders, Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, held a news conference in Tel Aviv this morning to outline their policies for the next four years, should the Labor Party succeed in forming the next government. Over to Lea Zinder in Tel Aviv:

According to Labor leaders' 4-year-plan, their first move, if they were elected to power, would be to coordinate with the new administration in Washington, and sign a new memorandum of understanding which would ensure the continuation of strategic and economic cooperation between the two countries. They would also renew the agreement excluding the PLO from negotiations as long as that organization does not renounce terror or recognize Israel's right to exist. Thereafter, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation would be invited to the negotiating table, in accordance with the London agreement.

If the population in the territories maintain law and order for 3 to 6 months, said Peres, he would hold elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to elect Palestinian representatives to these talks. Every Palestinian living in the territories would be eligible to vote, and only Palestinians living there would be candidates for election. The past record of these candidates would not be inspected, but the PLO, said Peres, would be excluded from the talks. Any agreement reached in such talks would be put to a national referendum in Israel. If the talks with the Palestinians bore fruit, in 1990 the Gaza Strip would be turned over to an Arab civil administration.

If by 1991, the Knesset had not legislated a change in the electoral system, another referendum would be held in Israel to determine the issue. By 1992, said Peres, he would set up a scientific center for the entire Middle East, with the participation of Middle Eastern and European countries.

Peres and Rabin also said they would maintain inflation under 10 percent per year and set up a national hospitalization authority.

Returning to the election campaign, Yitzhaq Rabin, who had a stone thrown at him in 'Afula yesterday, called on the Likud to conduct a decent and fair election campaign.

Peres Gives Details of Alignment 4-Year Plan

TA1810084088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1938 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Speech by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister—originally delivered at a news conference in Tel Aviv on 17 October—aired as part of the television election propaganda broadcasts—videotaped]

[Text] Good evening. Yitzhaq [Rabin], myself, and a team of colleagues have formulated a work plan for the next 4 years. The following are the main points of our plan:

First year: We will coordinate with the new U.S. Administration in the strategic sphere and the peace process. This coordination will be to ensure that Jordan remains a security border, that Jerusalem is not repartitioned, and that the PLO does not arrive [not further specified]. We will also seek economic coordination.

Immediately after the above, we will invite a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to begin negotiations. We will agree to an international opening of a conference that will not coerce us in anyway, and that will bring us to direct negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

We will hold free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip so as to establish a Palestinian representation to negotiations. If we arrive at an agreement with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the results of that agreement will be brought to the people in the form of a referendum. This way, each of us—members of the Alignment as well as of the Likud—will be able to vote for or against the plan, and the national consensus will be preserved.

In the economic field, we will immediately establish a joint council with the participation of employers, the Histadrut, and the government. The council will be led by the prime minister, and will strive to achieve two main goals:

A. Augment exports and do away with bureaucracy.

B. Formulate a growth plan; create 120,000 jobs; enable every factory to achieve standards of sophistication; and enable every young person in the State of Israel to achieve high education.

We will deal with the issue of the health establishment, mainly through a central hospitalization plan. We will also initiate a state health law.

Naturally, we will attend at once to all the issues which need amendment in the field of education.

Second year: If the Jordanians join the negotiations, all will be well. If they do not, we will propose that the Gaza Strip residents gradually assume the administration of their civilian affairs within the framework of the representation established through free elections.

A wage and tax reform will be undertaken so as to improve productivity, promote the weaker strata of society, and decrease government intervention in the economy.

We will establish an authority to prepare our economy for the unification of Europe.

Third year: Israel will submit a plan for the development of the Middle East.

If the issue of electoral reform is not addressed in the Knesset, it will be decided in a national referendum.

We will make an effort to increase the industrialization of those Jewish and Arab settlements and villages which are unable to exist on agriculture alone.

We will increase investment in the Negev and the Galilee.

In the fourth and final year, we will examine our achievements in the economic sphere. The goal in this sphere is threefold:

A. Reduce inflation to a European level of 5 to 6 percent. There is no need to panic in this respect, it can be done.

B. Raise exports to an annual 10 percent. [not further specified]

C. Bring economic growth to an annual level of 7 percent. This will suffice for all the needs of the military, education, and health systems.

You will—we will all—discover that the situation can be changed, that tensions can be abated, the intifada [uprising] can be done away with, and the economy can progress for the benefit of each and every one in the country, and for the country as a whole.

Rabin Presents Alignment Political, Defense Plan
TA1810090488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2003 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Speech by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—originally delivered at a news conference in Tel Aviv on 17 October—aired as part of the television propaganda broadcasts—videotaped]

[Text] Good evening. The main effort of our 4-year plan will be dedicated to the achievement of peace and security. As defense minister, and an IDF veteran with 27 years of military service behind me, I am telling you: We must give peace a chance. The pursuit of peace contains risk, of course, and it occasionally exacts a price. We will not again pay the price we paid for the peace with Egypt. We will not return to the 1967 borders. We will not demolish or uproot settlements in the regions which will have to be evacuated if peace is achieved.

The first priority in the peace process is peace along our eastern border. Peace can be achieved solely through negotiations with the Arab partners. Who are these partners? Where peace on the eastern border is concerned, Jordan comes before all others. Without Jordan there will be no peace on our eastern border, Jordan will not be extracted from the endless cycle of wars, and the possibility of a new eastern front cannot be ruled out.

Neither can peace be achieved without a representation of Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Therefore, when we form the government, the first year of our operative plan will be based on two main moves: First of all, an appeal to the United States to resume the Shultz initiative. At the moment, it is the only operational initiative capable of bringing the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table.

Second: We will propose to the Palestinians residing in the territories that they elect, by themselves and from themselves, a representation. Without such a representation we will not be able to reach a solution to our eastern border conflict. We will present the Palestinians with a condition: They will have to maintain a period of calm, of absolute quiet, for 3 to 6 months, only after which will we agree that elections be held. We will not negotiate with the PLO, but we do have to arrive at a dialogue with a representation of residents of the territories.

If we are unsuccessful in attaining joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations, we will attempt to reach interim agreements with the Palestinians who live in the territories. I hope such a representation is indeed established and that we can achieve interim settlements with it. It will also be possible to achieve interim settlements with Jordan. This plan may sound fantastic, but it is my opinion that it is possible.

Arab Leaders in Territories View Labor Plan
TA1710202688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Notables in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have reservations about the Labor Party's plan, as expressed by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin in their news conference today. Their reservations mostly stem from the fact that the plan was conceived during the election campaign and was certainly influenced by it. This is reported by our correspondent Victor Nahmias, who spoke this evening with several Arab leaders in the territories.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah said that the uprising has given birth to the Palestinian option, adding that the Peres-Rabin plan ignores this option. Dr Yasir 'Abd al-(Rabbu) said that the only positive point in the plan is the proposal for elections in the territories. He added, however, that the elections must be conducted under international supervision.

Fayiz Abu Rahmah, chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, said that it is impossible to ignore the PLO, especially if we take into consideration the measures toward moderation which we can expect it to implement soon.

Supreme Court Rejects Kakh Movement Appeal
TA1810101488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] The Kakh Movement will not take part in the 12th Knesset elections. This was the ruling of five Supreme Court Justices who rejected the movement's appeal against the disqualification of its Knesset list. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that in their ruling, the justices state that Kakh's goals and deeds are racist, and

that this movement calls for a violent denial of rights and the systematic degradation of parts of the population. This is reminiscent, in a terribly similar manner, of the worst experiences undergone by the Jewish people.

Meir Kahane held a news conference in his office following the reading of the court's ruling. One of his supporters ran wild during this news conference, tore up his identity card, and tried to snatch a soldier's weapon. He fainted after being restrained, and is currently being treated in an ambulance which rushed to the scene. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during the news conference Kahane attacked all the parties, claiming that now there is nobody to vote for.

The following are some reactions to the Supreme Court's ruling:

The Likud welcomed the decision on disqualification. The Alignment also expressed satisfaction with the decision. The Tehiya Movement says the law is deficient if it allows a party such as the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], which receives instructions from the PLO, to freely enter the Knesset. MAPAM says the decision will be recorded as a very important landmark in the struggle of Israel's democracy against internal destructive elements. The National Religious Party supports the decision and also calls for disqualification of the PLP.

Sharon Signs Economic Agreement With Hungary

TA1710142088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Oct 88 p 10

[Report by Avi Gan'or and Mikhal Rave]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An aide-memoire for the promotion of cooperation between Hungary and Israel was signed in Budapest last weekend. The 7-year agreement stipulates the parameters for Israel's purchases of agricultural products from Hungary, and for Hungary's purchases of technological expertise and agricultural equipment from Israel.

The agreement was signed in Hungary during the visit of Ari'el Sharon, Israel's minister of industry and trade.

Sharon Interviewed on Trade

LD1710162288 Budapest MTI in English 1523 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Budapest, October 17, 1988 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Ari'el Sharon, Israeli minister for industry and trade, who is on an unofficial visit to Hungary, gave an exclusive interview with ECONEWS.

"My reasons for being here are that the Government of Israel is interested in developing relations with Hungary on the basis of mutual advantages. We feel that the current atmosphere in the socialist countries makes this possible," Mr Sharon said.

He said that Hungary was developing very fast in the areas of technology, agriculture and industry. "We believe that Hungary could help Israel market its products in this part of the world. In return, Israel proposes that Hungarian manufactures take advantage of the Israeli free trade agreement with the United States and the one with the European Community," Mr Sharon stressed.

Israel can help Hungary by supplying the most up-to-date technology in electronics, medical equipment, laser technology, biotechnology, and in other fields. "But of course, everything will have to be done according to the agreements Israel has already signed," he said.

Mr Sharon hinted that there was the possibility of setting up a joint venture in the food and electronics industry, using Israeli equipment and American capital.

"As for the Hungarian part, I can say that in order to be able to export to the U.S. market duty free, there should be a JV [joint venture] based in Israel. 35 per cent of the products must be made in Israel, whilst the remaining 65 per cent could be made in Hungary.

"We are currently working on the details of this," Mr Sharon added.

Israeli figures show that Hungarian exports to Israel (USD 20 million) are about twice as great as Israeli exports to Hungary. "So bilateral trade should be balanced. I suggest we buy more and sell more. Israel could buy grain, meat and beef here," he said.

"I suggested here that, by using the influence we have in the international business community, we shall try to attract foreign investors and to help foreign marketing. I also offered help in establishing contacts with investment banks," Mr Sharon stressed.

Bilateral trade should and can be developed, he said, and added: "I personally believe that in three to four years from now, this could amount to 100 million USD on each side. I don't think this is beyond our ability."

An automatic import licensing system will soon be established for Hungarian metals and chemicals, and Hungary is also expected to liberalize its import policy. The Israeli side will reduce the high customs duty on light bulbs. There are opportunities for setting up a JV in manufacturing energy-saving devices. The Hungarian chemical industry is another potential field for JVs.

"I am very optimistic about the future of our relations," Mr Sharon said, "But I have to say that we do not yet have enough information. Our trip was a kind of market-research exercise. We have invited 120 top Hungarian businessmen to the Hungarian week which will be held at the end of November in Tel Aviv, and shall be arranging for them to meet their Israeli counterparts."

There had been some technical problems with flights between Budapest and Tel Aviv, but these were now resolved, Mr Sharon said.

As regards air traffic, Mr Sharon added, "I suggested to Malev [Hungarian state airline] that they took advantage of the circuit flights we are going to organize. Israel plans package tours from the United States via Hungary to Israel and also from Israel via Hungary to the USSR. Particularly the latter is potentially good business, because many Israelis would like to visit the USSR," Mr Sharon said.

Peres Favored in Poll After Propaganda Broadcasts

TA1710141388 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by political parties correspondent 'Aliza Wallach]

[Text] A Decima public opinion poll conducted for the Labor Party shows that 64 percent of the public believes that Shim'on Peres is better suited to be prime minister, compared to 47 percent who prefer Yitzhaq Shamir for the post. [figures as published]

The data is based on a poll carried out between 4 and 12 October to study the influence the election propaganda broadcasts are having on the public. The poll included a representative sample of 1,600 interviewees. The pollsters said the broadcasts' main success is in increasing the gap between Peres' and Shamir's standing among the public.

In reply to the question, "Which of the two would be the better prime minister?," 55 percent of those polled said Peres, compared to 25 percent who supported Shamir.

In reply to the question, "Who is better suited to be a leader?," 50 percent said Peres, while 30 percent said Shamir. Among those undecided on the prime minister question, the answer on the leadership question was 48 percent for Peres and 31 percent for Shamir.

Shamir Meets Danish Parliament President

TA1710164888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that if calm is not restored in the territories, there is a danger that the unrest might spread to Arab population centers within the Green Line. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Shamir told Svend Jakobsen, president of the Danish Parliament, that peace cannot be achieved from a position of weakness, but only from one of strength. The Danish guest expressed to his host Denmark's concern regarding the unrest in the territories. He added, however, that despite the criticism Europe continues to be Israel's friend.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2 Soldiers, 8 Arabs Wounded

TA1810054588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Excerpts] In the territories, two soldiers were wounded, one seriously, when a firebomb exploded last night near the village of 'Azzun, not far from Qalqilyah. The badly wounded soldier was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital.

In disturbances throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, eight Arab residents were hurt, most of them suffering slight injuries. Four of them were wounded in incidents at Rafah in a stone-throwing confrontation with soldiers. Three others were hurt at the Al-Shati' refugee camp, and the eighth injury occurred during an incident at Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

In East Jerusalem, the windshield of a No 25 bus was smashed while it was traveling through the Al-Shu'fat neighborhood. No one was hurt.

Two Molotov cocktails were hurled at an Egged bus at the entrance to Hebron. The firebombs exploded on the road, but there were no injuries and no damage was caused.

Explosion Near Sharon's Home

TA1710184888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] An explosive charge went off a short time ago near Minister Ari'el Sharon's home in Jerusalem's Old City. There is no report about casualties. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports from the scene:

At approximately 1910 a makeshift charge was thrown at several Border Policemen stationed near Minister Sharon's home in Hagay Street in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. The charge went off, but there were no injuries and no damage was caused.

The incident occurred approximately 15 meters from Sharon's home. The policemen chased the assailant and opened fire. The assailant was not apprehended, but bloodstains were found in the area. The area was cordoned off and a police laboratory was summoned to the area. Ten suspects have so far been detained for interrogation.

We should note that Ari'el and Lili Sharon are currently abroad.

Prime Minister Interviewed on National Economy

JN1610211188 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i by economists Dr Fahd al-Fanik and Dr 'Abdallah al-Maliki in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Fanik] My colleague, Dr 'Abdallah al-Maliki, and I are glad that we have been given this opportunity by Jordan Television to meet with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to raise before him the questions and queries currently preoccupying the mind of the public. Mr Prime Minister, the government has adopted a series of trade, industrial, monetary, and financial measures and decisions. The chain has been virtually completed. Do these measures and decisions represent a certain philosophy or reflect an integral economic policy to manage the Jordanian economy, or are they isolated decisions coming as reactions to certain extraordinary events? If they represent a general Jordanian economic policy, as I expect your answer to be, then what are the features of this policy, and what are the goals that it seeks to achieve at the current stage?

[Al-Rifa'i] Thanks, my brother doctor. As you know, economic policy is the state's tool to achieve its goals in economic activity and rectify economic problems. It is influenced by different considerations—economic and noneconomic. Generally, economic policy is aimed at developing the national economy to the highest possible level and providing jobs for all. It is also aimed at achieving price stability and fair distribution of revenues.

As for financial policy, it represents the measures that the state takes to intervene in economic activity through the adaptation of public spending levels and revenues to achieve economic and social goals. Monetary policy is a different thing. It is a series of measures taken by the state, usually represented by the Central Bank, to manage and regulate public liquidity for the economy. The ultimate aim of this policy is to achieve economic stability, control price fluctuations, and maintain price stability in domestic markets and exchange rates in foreign dealings.

From this brief explanation of the so-called economic, financial, and monetary policies, it becomes clear that there is interplay and interaction among them. Any measures complement others. When we judge any of these measures, we should look at all the measures as one integrated group. Any monetary measure, for example, will not achieve its purpose if not associated with a financial measure, and any financial measure will not achieve its purpose unless enforced by an economic measure, and so forth. Judgment on these measures must be made through an integrated perspective. They should be viewed as parts of an integral series, not as isolated measures.

The common view about which you asked, and which links all these measures as the state's policy, is in general economic openness and a low profile for the public sector in direct economic activities. As you know, the most important aims of Jordanian economic policy are the following—I mention them as headlines, as there is no room to go into detail:

—Achieving high growth rates in the national economy surpassing the rate of population growth.

—Achieving increasing stability in economic activity.

—Achieving increasing distribution of the gains of development among the various development regions in the Kingdom.

—Preventing sharp fluctuations in the rates of economic performance.

—Increasing work opportunities and upgrading the competence of the labor force through constant training and absorbing renewed technical and technological knowledge.

—Improving the balance of payments, in other words, the balance between the kingdom's earnings of foreign currencies and the Kingdom's payments of these currencies.

—Supporting the Kingdom's reserves of foreign currency and maintaining a stable rate for the dinar.

These are in general the aims of the Kingdom's economic policy, which we hope to achieve through the series of financial, monetary, and economic measures, which, as I have said, are interrelated and complementary to one another.

[Al-Maliki] Your Excellency the Prime Minister: We fully agree with you that harmony among the various economic and political goals is of crucial importance. We also agree that economic openness is vital to give these measures substance and effectiveness.

I will ask, if I may, about recent monetary measures that were announced the day before yesterday. In my opinion, the most important of these is the decision to float the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate. Of course, this decision takes us into a new, advanced monetary stage, which in itself is significant. Further, it places heavier burdens on the administrators of monetary and economic policy. What I would like to ask about is the justification for the decision and your perception of the task it will fulfil.

[Al-Rifa'i] If I may, I will begin by commenting on the term you have used, namely floating the dinar's exchange rate. In actual fact, the decision was not to float. Our idea of floating is for the Central Bank to abstain from intervention, thus leaving it to each seller to set the exchange rate as he pleases. That is not what the decision was about. The decision we passed called for the

Central Bank to continue to set the dinar's exchange rate. But now this will be on a daily basis and after consulting with the major banks in the Kindom to achieve a balance between the country's foreign currency earnings and its requirements thereof.

This flexibility in fixing the exchange rate has become necessary, as I have indicated, as part of a number of policies to foster economic adjustment with the outside world. Numerous middle-ranking and even wealthy nations have embraced such a policy to curb the state budget and balance of payments defict and to enhance economic growth.

This decision may lead to the local currency falling against foreign currencies. If this should happen, we expect both the country and the general economic situation to benefit. The fall in the exchange rate in terms of the dollar or sterling, for example, is not necessarily a negative thing. In fact, the advantages of this move far outnumber the disadvantages.

The advantages of flexibility in the exchange rate are cutting back imports and increasing exports; substituting local goods for imported products; optimizing untapped productive capacity, particularly in the industry, agriculture, tourism, and transport sectors; increasing investment and savings; increasing economic growth rates; lowering the state budget deficit; increasing job opportunities; enhancing the usefulness of working abroad; reducing the influx of foreign labor; encouraging exports of the services of the transport and contract sectors; and lowering consumption in general. These, among others, are some of the advantages of the fall in the dinar's exchange rate against foreign currencies.

This does not mean there are no negative points. You know better than I do that every decision of a financial, monetary, or ecoomic nature carries positive and negative consequences. It is vital, however, that the positive elements far outweigh the negative.

Since we are speaking about the dinar and its rate of exchange, we hear from time to time a citizen complaining because he exchanged the dinar for the dollar at a high price from one of the moneychangers. This citizen deduces many things from this. We must try to keep in mind that currencies are an instrument or a means for payment, not a commodity to be traded with. When I hear that this or that person has purchased dollars from a moneychanger at a high price, and I hear him complaining, I wonder why this citizen had purchased dollars from the moneychanger in the first place?

If he purchased them for legitimate reasons, such as for traveling abroad, for studying, or for medical treatment abroad, or because he needs them to pay for imports, or for any other legitimate reason, then this citizen can obtain the dollars he needs from the Central Bank, or from any accredited bank in the Kingdom at the declared exchange rate. But if he purchases these dollars to smuggle foreign currency abroad, or to trade with them for the sake of speculation—a type of gambling—then this citizen should not expect the government and the Central Bank to secure him dollars at a cheap price so that he may speculate.

As you know, the government has momentous financial obligations. With respect to foreign currencies, we must secure the foreign currencies needed to cover the import operations of the public and private sectors, to service foreign debts, and settle the installments and interest rates of the accrued loans. Thanks be to God, the foreign currencies that the Kingdom obtains are more than sufficient to meet the import needs of the private sector. The important thing is to judiciously use the foreign currencies we receive, restrict their use to legitimate activities, and avoid using foreign currencies in activities that are not needed.

Let me give you some examples: Of course, statistical figures for 1988 have not yet been compiled because we are still in the 10th month and we have not reached the end of the year. Let us take the statistical figures for 1987 which are accurate and real figures. The Kingdom obtained $600 million from tourism in 1987. We find that Jordanians spent $450 million in 1987 on tourism, studies, and medical treatment abroad. Thus, the Kingdom's income from foreign tourism was reduced from $600 million to $150 million. We also find that remittances by Jordanians working abroad were around $900 million in 1987 while foreign labor—the Arab and foreign workers in Jordan—transferred $200 million dollars in the same year.

There is an objective to be fulfilled when using foreign currencies. If we look at the import of luxury commodities which we do not need, the expansion in the import of cars, equipment, instruments, and furniture, we come to the conclusion that to counter this requires a national effort, and not only a government decision. If we want to judiciously use the foreign currencies we obtain while maintaining the economic open-door policy under which we live, our efforts must be concentrated and carried out by all sectors of society. With respect to the government, it will start to implement these trends and policies on itself. [Al-Fanik] It seems to me that flotation, partial flotation, restricted flotation, or flexibility are different names that are not objectives in themselves. Flotation was not an objective, but a possible method to face a specific situation. This method was used. It is natural to see that it produces some positive and negative effects, as Your Excellency said. The important thing is the general outcome. This decision cannot be judged in light of one sign only because this might be in the interest of one side only. What concerns the national economy is the final outcome.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, I want to point out that one of the most important problems from which the Jordanian economy suffers is a structural problem. It is the imbalance in our dealing with the outside world. Our

imports are three or four times more than our exports. This is an abnormal situation and cannot continue. It is even unbearable. There should be certain measures to change the situation. The objective of all the Jordanian development plans, without exception, is to reduce the trade deficit.

However, this deficit has been increasing. One of the reasons, and I do not say all the reasons, is the unrealistic exchange rate of the dinar to which we constantly adhered. We considered the Jordanian economy in the service of the dinar and not the opposite. Now that we have moved to the realistic exchange rate of the dinar, does Your Excellency believe that the competitive ability of the Jordanian agricultural, industrial, and contractual exports will increase in the external markets? Do you believe that the private and family sectors will adjust so that the imports will decrease because of the high prices of the imported commodities? Lastly, what complementary measures will the government take to support the exporting sector? Are there other measures, in addition to the realistic exchange rate that is considered a basic factor, to support the exporting sector?

[Al-Rifa'i] I fully agree with you my brother. One of our big problems is the large deficit in the trade balance. We hope that this problem will be tackled as a result of the recent financial, economic, and monetary measures.

As you have said, the Kingdom's revenues from exports amount to approximately $1 billion per year and our imports exceed $2.7-2.8 billion per year. We should bridge the gap between exports and imports. This requires an increase in exports and a decrease in imports.

Regarding the increase in exports, we believe the recent measures will help the propagation of Jordanian products outside Jordan at competitive prices. These measures will enable Jordanian producers to exploit the unused producing capacity. The measures will encourage them to invest and produce substitutes to the imported commodity. The government will of course cooperate with them to find new markets. We call on them, particularly the brothers in the industrial sector, to establish specialized companies to export and market Jordanian products abroad. The government will support such companies. The same applies to the agricultural sector and the possibility of finding new markets to export good quality products at competitive prices.

With regard to reducing imports, as I have said, the government will begin to apply this on itself. The government will limit the importation of cars, equipment, supplies, and furniture of the public sector. We hope the private sector will respond to this trend and reduce the import of luxury goods. This also should not be reflected on the trade sector in the Kingdom [sentence as heard]. This sector can market the Jordanian products that replace foreign imports. Marketing is not necessarily the responsibility of the producer himself, or the owner of the factory. The trade sector can market Jordanian products in the domestic market as it is now marketing foreign imports.

If these measures are to succeed and achieve their objectives, all sectors should understand the situation, cooperate, and respond to these objectives through which we aim to achieve self-reliance.

[Al-Maliki] Thank you Mr Prime Minister. Allow me to return to the subject of the dinar and its flotation. Regardless of what we call the decision which has been adopted, whether we call it flotation or flexibility, it will result in a movement in the dinar's exchange rate against the dollar. This movement could be upward or downward. However, if it is upward, with a rise in the dollar's exchange rate, this will affect the price of all our imports, including the consumer's basic commodities. This will certainly lead to increasing inflation rates and will harm the limited-income classes. If matters take this course and inflation begins to increase, will Your Excellency adopt measures in this case?

[Al-Rifa'i] Of course, brother. As you know, the inflation rate in the Kingdom this year and last year has been less than 1 percent. This could be one of the lowest rates in the world. It is true that flexibility in the dinar exchange rate could lead to creating inflationary pressures, but we hope that the rate of inflation, if it takes place, will remain a low one. As for the question on an increase in living costs for those with limited income, this will never occur. The basic food and supply materials are made available at fixed prices subsidized by the government. The prices will remain as they are. There will be no increase in the prices of any basic food and supply commodities. Even if the prices of imported commodities become higher from their foreign sources, the government will continue to subsidize these commodities to maintain their current prices. Thank God, we have a large strategic reserve of these commodities. We will maintain and enhance this reserve. We will constantly secure these commodities at their current prices.

The prices of imported nonbasic and luxury commodities whose prices are not controlled by the government may increase. We hope this increase will check the importation of such goods because this saves foreign currencies for the Kingdom. However, although the prices of the basic food materials will remain as they are and will not get higher, the government is currently studying lowering the prices of some public services, especially for those with limited income. We hope to announce soon, God willing, a reduction in the prices of water and electricity. Directed by his majesty the king, we are constantly eager that our measures be in the interest of all citizens and that all our ...asures have no negative effects on the living standard of citizens in this country.

[Al-Fanik] Mr Prime Minister, if the government confronts the possible or expected higher prices through subsidization, especially of basic food commodities, this will place a huge burden on the budget and will increase subsidy funds. When subsidy begins, it has one direction; it will soar year after year. Our budget is already under pressure without this subsidy. On the other hand, if subsidization begins, it is difficult to abandon in the future. We have the experience of fuel subsidization, which, miraculously, we got rid of. Others have experiences in subsidizing bread, which has also become a problem. Your Excellency, to what extent do you consider subsidization an appropriate policy? More accurately, I reformulate the question: Do you consider the subsidization of basic food commodities an economic or political decision?

[Al-Rifa'i] Your question, brother, proves that financial, economic, and monetary decision are so intermingled and interlinked, that the government cannot adopt a decisioon that achieves positive results on all levels and in all sectors. We find a profit in one side and a negative result in another. The important thing is that the final result should be in the interest of the economy and citizens. On whether the decision is political or economic, it seems these days that all politics deal with the economy. We can no longer isolate the economy from politics. You are right, government subsidization is costly. Of course, when the government treasury subsidizes basic food commodities it does so at great cost. But, as I said, the government will continue to subsidize basic food stuffs and to ensure them for the citizens at the current prices. We plan to take financial measures to control government expenditure in other fields so that we will be able to maintain the current prices of basic food stuffs and to continue to subsidize these prices. We hope that along with the control of expenditure, this policy will be pursued without further financial burden on the treasury.

[Al-Maliki] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, we are hearing these days, in light of the rapid developments in the monetary sector, that the remittances of Jordanians working abroad have dropped, perhaps tangibly. If this assumption is correct, then it is important, because on its basis we must adopt new stands on new issues. Now the main question is: Has the government verified this situation and is it true or not that there has been a drop; and if there has in fact been a drop, what are the remedial measures you have in mind, that is if there are measures that can deal with such a situation?

[Al-Rifa'i] Like you, brother, I have heard the same rumors. I am calling them rumors, because there are many rumors about the drop in the remittances of Jordanians working abroad. I would like to affirm that these rumors are absolutely not true. The remittances are continuing at their normal annual rate. In fact, these remittances increased during the first half of this year compared to the first half of last year. We must point out, however, that there are two types of remittances: The first type—also the largest—consists of funds transferred by Jordanian workers abroad to their families in the Kingdom. These transfers are continuing at the same rate and level as before.

The second type—the lesser part—consists of transfers for the sake of investment and saving. Of course this part is governed by many factors, such as the worker's income abroad and his ability to save and invest as well as the investment atmosphere in the Kingdom. We hope that recent financial, monetary, and economic measures will be an incentive to encourage investment in the Kingdom and that our brothers working abroad will continue to transfer funds for investment and not just for what can be termed the sustenance of families in the Kingdom. The talk in absolute and general terms that the remittances have dropped from their previous level does not reflect the truth.

[Al-Fanik] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, your remark that there has not been any drop in the remittances has actually come as a pleasant surprise to me. My previous impression was that they have dropped, especially in recent months. I am pleased to hear that they have not dropped and that they are still close to the levels of the previous years. Actually, Jordanian expatriates were said to be grumbling about the unrealistic price of the dinar. It was like a tax being levied on them. Their income in the Gulf when calculated in Jordanian dinars was diminishing every month. What they sent to their families in Jordan used to get them fewer dinars month by month, at least until early 1987. Now the situation has changed and turned in their favor in the sense that their incomes are getting them more dinars for their families.

On the other hand, the interest rate on the dinar was not advantageous. For instance, they used to compare the interest on the dinar as fixed by the Central Bank with the interest on the pound Sterling. They found that saving in Sterling was more advantageous. Now, the floating of the interest rate which took place 2 or 3 weeks ago would permit an increase in the rate of interest and make the Jordanian dinar more convincing and attractive as an investment and saving currency. The expectations over the exchange rate were also negative. They expected that there would be a drop in the price of the dinar after a while. So they postponed their transfers, unless they were essential. Now, the expected drop has taken place.

However, expectations will not always continue as in the past. In fact, some of the expectations might be reversed. For instance, there might be an improvement in the price of the dinar and a drop in the price of the dollar, especially since the world dollar price has dropped this week by about 5 percent. But technically—and we do not want to spend much time here—the main issue is that we must consolidate public confidence and change the expectations to become positive and link the expatriates to the country truly and firmly so that they will feel that they are part of this homeland.

But my question, Your Excellency, is on another sector—the moneychangers' sector. The moneychangers have a role in the free economy. It is a basic role which serves the citizen, because the moneychangers are considered, to a certain degree, to be a lung through which the citizen breathes in certain specific circumstances. Their role has both positive and negative aspects. How do you view the moneychangers' role and future in Jordan and how can the positive aspect of their role be bolstered? At the same time, how can we narrow the gap in the price of the dollar or the dinar between the offical price announced by the Central Bank and the free price fixed by the moneychangers so the gap would be narrower than before? [Al-Rifa'i] I thank you for your question. I support what you said in the first part of your question. We believe that the recent measures will encourage remittances from abroad. We hope that these remittances will increase in light of these measures, whether the measures deal with the exchange rate or the interest rates.

With respect to moneychangers, it is true that they play a role in any free economy. But for this role to be a positive one, I believe that the moneychangers must exercise their activities to serve the national economy. Of course, I do not mean that they must lose in the process. However, what is important is that they must not become a vehicle for smuggling foreign currencies outside the country through the accounts they have abroad. We want to invigorate the moneychangers' role on condition that this role revolves around dealing with currency notes and increasing the Kingdom's foreign currency revenues. Their role must not have a negative impact on our monetary situation, and subsequently on the general economic situation.

With respect to the exchange rates and the gap which exists between them, we hope that as a result of the flexible policy on the rate of exchange that the Central Bank and the other banks adopt, the gap will be reduced between the declared official rate of exchange and the exchange rate moneychangers announce. It goes without saying that there will always be a difference between the two rates of exchange, but we hope that this difference will remain within reasonable limits and not be unrealistic. Sometimes, unrealistic rates of exchange are announced. We know that they are unrealistic. Some ask a certain exchange rate for the dollar but if no one agrees to this, then this exchange rate becomes useless. Therefore, the moneychangers must deal realistically and within a reasonable margin between the official exchange rate and their rate of exchange.

[Al-Maliki] As long as we are addressing outside factors such as remittances and others which influence the Jordanian economy, I believe that we should mention Arab assistance in this field. This Arab assistance played a vital role in the economic life in Jordan in the past, and continues to play such a role. There are two issues which I believe preoccupy the citizen and officials in this respect. The first issue deals with the accrued Arab assistance funds which have not been paid, or whose settlement has been deferred for some time. The second issue is whether Arab assistance will continue in the future. Your Excellency Prime Minister, do you believe that the Arab assistance funds whose payment has been deferred will be settled soon, God willing? A far more important issue is the Arab assistance alloted to Jordan during the eighties according to the Baghdad summit resolutions. It will expire soon. Is there any hope that such assistance will be renewed in order to prevent a breach in the Jordanian economy as a result of its absence?

[Al-Rifa'i] As you know, brother, in the Baghdad summit the Arab states decided to allocate $1.25 billion annually to support Jordan in building its military power and enhancing its financial and economic steadfastness through the establishment of development projects. The sisterly states pledged to pay this sum annually over a period of 10 years. The 10th year ends at the end of this year. However, with extreme regret, most Arab states did not fulfill their obligations fully. The only state which fulfilled its obligations and transferred them in full is sisterly Saudi Arabia. It is the only state which fulfilled obligations and helped and backed Jordan in other fields. Some sisterly states fulfilled their obligations for only 1 or 2 years. Others reduced their obligations and transferred only part of their obligations to Jordan. Since Jordan used to obtain foreign loans within the limits of expected annual aid, failure to receive this aid led to the accumulation of debts and budget deficits. Jordan's foreign debt is within the limits of delayed Arab aid.

[Al-Maliki, interrupting] This means that had the aid been received, there would have been no indebtedness?

[Al-Rifa'i] Exactly. In other words, if we now receive the Arab financial obligations they would almost cover the Kingdom's foreign debt. His majesty discussed the issue of due and delayed obligations with his brothers the Arab leaders in the Amman summit and the Algiers summit. They promised well and agreed to pay the delayed funds in installments to be transferred to Jordan throughout the next years. We hope this will be fulfilled. As you have said, Jordan needs the support of its brothers. Arab aid has played a major role in developing Jordan, building its intrinsic and military power, in its steadfastness, and in the Jordanian economy in general. We need the continued flow of this support. God willing, the Arab brothers will transfer their due obligations. We are now talking about the arrears, not about new obligations for the years to come. This sums up the situation, brother.

[Al-Fanik] An impartial observer cannot understand the difficulty faced by Jordan in obtaining Arab aid. Jordan constitutes the northern flank of the sisterly Arab states which extend aid to it and it is in the interest of these states that Jordan is strong economically, militarily, and in all fields. What harms Jordan economically, militarily, or in security-related matters harms the sisterly Arab states. Funds paid to Jordan are too insignificant to

constitute a real burden to them. However, the fait accompli and delayed payments bore Jordan huge burdens of foreign debts, a major portion of which are military debts. The rest are development debts or debts to cover budget deficits. State debt services—the installments and interest rates paid by Jordan annually—amount to approximately 18 percent of the Kingdom's revenues of foreign currencies. This is a heavy burden. What is the government's policy toward this vital, major, and important issue?

[Al-Rifa'i] Brother, as you have said the state debt services constitute a big burden on the state budget and on our foreign currency assets. Foreign loans were within the limits of the annual Arab aid scheduled to reach the Kingdom. However, because of the drop in aid, debts accumulated and installments and interests became due. To safeguard Jordan's credibility, position, and reputation in its dealing with countries and international and foreign financial organizations, we paid all due installments and interests on time throughout the past years. And we will continue to do so.

For years our loan policy has been to borrow annually much less than what we can repay annually. In other words, the debt ceiling will drop year by year. In addition to this, we stopped borrowing to finance infrastructure projects after the services have covered all areas in the Kingdom. Loans are used in production projects with financial revenues. Reducing foreign loans, using them in production projects, and repaying due installments and interests on time will reduce the debt ceiling, and consequently, the rate of debt services from our foreign currency income. We will continue to do this, God willing. If we receive the Arab aid, as we expect, we will be able to repay more, thus saving the interest we would have to pay as a result of repayment over many years.

[Al-Maliki] Let us turn now from foreign issues, remittances, Arab aid, and foreign debts to Jordan, and to the private sector in particular. One of the principles of this government is to charge the private sector with a larger role to contribute to shouldering the burdens of this stage of the Jordanian economy, which, as we all know, has been characterized with stagnation. This government's policy was directed toward supporting and activating this sector. After the passage of 4 years, does Your Excellency the Prime Minister believe that the private sector has or has not responded to these motives? Accordingly, what is your reaction? Are you still committed to the private sector issues and is the private sector still committed to your issues as you see it? How do you view the future of the march of this sector?

[Al-Rifa'i] Frankly, my brother, I regret to say that the role of the private sector in tackling economic stagnation was not as we hoped. Figures and statistics show that the public sector's expenditure has activated the national economy. The public sector's expenditure is also the direct reason for achieving a 3 per cent growth rate ...

[Al-Maliki, interrupting] In terms of fixed prices of course.

[Al-Rifa'i] Yes, in terms of fixed prices. As you know, the government has taken all available measures to reinforce the role of the private sector and to reach the stage we want. That is, we want the growth to be in the private, rather than the public sector. But, when we revised the 5-year development plan 1 month ago on reaching halfway through the period, the figures clearly showed that the public sector achieved most of its objectives. Regrettably, the private sector failed to play its role in this regard.

Naturally, we have faith in the private sector. We believe that its role is vital in invigorating the economic sectors of the Kingdom. We will remain committed to its issues, and to providing it with all possible support in the hope that it may become more active and increase its participation in the development of the national economy. The best example of this policy are the economic measures announced a few weeks ago to pave the way for the private sector to carry out investments and to act. This was done to remove all the administrative red tape and routine procedures that existed in the past.

[Al-Maliki] Did the private sector respond to these measures?

[Al-Rifa'i] There was an initial reaction. But we hope that this reaction and response will be translated into tangible facts that will benefit all the citizens in the country and the role of the private sector. We will continue to do all that is in our power in this respect. However, we hope that the private sector will succeed in organizing itself and arranging its state of affairs in a manner that will enable us to deal with it as a sector and not as individuals, companies, and industries which are dispersed. We will pursue this policy, and we hope that the private sector will become more active and will help us assume the burden. It is not often one hears the government say that it hopes the private sector will become more active and will outdo the public sector in invigorating the country's economy. However, this is what we hope for and this is our policy.

[Al-Fanik] Sir,I do not want to outbid you on the issue of the private sector because you are well known for your support for the private sector and for private initiatives. However, I would like to distinguish between two private sectors. The opinion which prevails among the public is that the private sector comprises the importers and the brokers who achieve quick profits. But these do not constitute the actual private sector. The real private sector in Jordan comprises the farmers, workers, the craftsmen, the technicians, and all the people who work and produce through their hard labor. This is the real private sector which, God willing, will never disappoint us. But my question is on an observation which no one misses. Every time we face difficulties, we find that the Central Bank appears at the forefront. The same applies

to some extent to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. But the Ministry of Finance seems to lag behind as if its role is secondary although it could be the principal party responsible for the economic and financial state of affairs in the country in view of the importance of government expenditures, taxes,and loans—all part of the finance ministry's prerogatives. What do you have to say on this issue?

[Al-Rifa'i] First, I completely support your definition of the private sector. This is the private sector I am speaking about, and the one we support. This private sector represents every producer, industrialist, farmer, and those who work in the tourist, transport, and services sector. We do not speak about a specific category of merchants and brokers, as you have called them. We speak about this sector as a whole. However, it pains us to say that growth in all these sectors has not been up to our expectations. We believe that more can be achieved by this sector, particularly in light of what we have offered to the private sector as a whole in terms of the recent measures. We will continue to support this sector on all levels, God willing.

As for your other question, the Central Bank appears in the limelight when a monetary problem surfaces. The Ministry of Industry and Trade appears when there are problems dealing with the economy, industry, and trade. The Finance Ministry's role is essential in the definition of the financial policy of the state. Coordination between it and the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Central Bank is a continuous operation. This brings us back to the beginning of our interview when we said that there is a link and an interconnection among the various measures.

In light of the recent economic and monetary measures, the Council of Ministers, upon the recommendations of the finance minister, approved the day before yesterday the general trends of next year's budget. We decided to reduce the deficit in the state budget by curtailing and controlling government expenditures. I have previously said that the government will begin by itself. We decided to stop purchasing vehicles, equipment, and so forth; curtail official delegations' trips abroad; postpone expenditure on infrastructure projects on which contracts have not yet been concluded; and discontinue official parties which are paid from the appropriations of the various government ministries, departments, and establishments.

However, we also decided to maintain the level of expenditure in the productive sectors and to continue expenditure on projects under implementation. We must view these financial measures within the context of the other monetary and economic measures. The financial measures could not have been approved before the monetary and economic measures. The sequence of these measures must not mean that the Ministry of Finance was late in taking action. For the same thing could have been said had the picture been in the reverse, where financial decisions had to be issued before the monetary decisions. In such a case, it would have been said that the Ministry of Finance was in the forefront while the Central Bank came late.

What I have mentioned are some of the measures aimed at controling government expenditure and therefore reducing the deficit in the state budget. God willing, we will adopt other measures to increase the revenues and the income from foreign currencies by encouraging the private sector and improving its economic performance as well as promoting our national exports. We are now studying the possibility of setting up soon, God willing, a fund for encouraging exports and another for bolstering investment, as a government backing for exportation and investment in the Kingdom. I believe that I understood the purpose of your question, Brother Doctor. We are fully aware of the close link between the deficit in the general budget and the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments. Therefore, we always maintain the close link between the financial and monetary policies and try to ensure the continued presence of the Ministry of Finance in the forefront.

[Al-Maliki] Your Excellecny the Prime Minister, there is no end to our questions, but our time is limited. And I am sure that the three or four millions viewers who are now watching you on the TV screen whether in Jordan, the West Bank, or the neighboring Arab countries have benefited from this talk and become acquainted with the government's thinking and method of running the national economy as well as with its present and future plans. These viewers must have learned that economic problems do exist and that the officials do not deny these problems. However, they are capable of confronting and dealing with them. Yet, these challenges are not just the responsibility of the government, but of the state as a whole. By the state, I mean the government and the people, with all their factions and classes, who have the right to know the facts and to participate in creating their present and future. My final word, Your Excellency the Prime Minister, is that we wish you success. We also would like to express confidence in Jordan's ability to surmount the problems and to continue the march. Thank you.

[Al-Rifa'i] Thank you. Permit me to say a last word. His Majesty King Husayn is our most important asset. Under his wise and alert leadership, and thanks to his sound directives and the cooperation among all the brother citizens, Jordan will remain, God willing, an oasis of security and stablity, a force to be reckoned with, and an impregnable and prosperous country. Most of the Third World countries, if not most of the countries in the world, now experience difficult economic circumstances. Thank God, our situation in Jordan is far better than that of most of these countries. We are faring well. In spite of this, we must realize that we are not an oil-producing country, and that the boom years had been an exceptional stage which ended with the end of the oil price hikes. We must depend on ourselves, and become

known for our maturity, determination, and the realization of the state of affairs as it is. We must adopt appropriate measures to accomodate ourselves with the new situation, correct what is wrong, and not heed rumors, irrespective of their content and purpose. This is to always maintain the brilliant image of our beloved country under his majesty's inspired leadership.

When we look at the situation in the Kingdom, we see the great achievements that His Majesty King Husayn's people had scored. Electricity and water reach 96 percent of the inhabitants. Roads link all population centers. Schools, health centers, and dispensaries are spread throughout the Kingdom. Other services like telephones, post offices, and communications are available to all. Basic foodstuffs are available at subsidized fixed prices. They will remain so. Progress and construction can be seen throughout the Kingdom. Above all, and more importantly, one must not forget the privilege of the state of security and stability we enjoy, and the satisfaction every citizen has that his family, properties, and personal liberties are secure and safeguarded. Developed countries in the world no longer view Jordan as one of the Third World countries. They consider it one of the developed countries in the world.

We achieved all this thanks to God, and thanks to his majesty's directives and his incessant wishes that his government always implements his orders to serve the citizens and offer them all the assistance possible. Even under the difficult financial circumstances we have experienced, the government, at the orders of his majesty, assumed the burden of the interest rates of loans, expropriations, and water prices on behalf of the municipal and rural councils. The same thing was applied to the farmers. All this constituted direct support for our citizen, wherever he may be on this good land. We will continue to implement his majesty's directives to secure a dignified life for our citizen.

However, when we speak about the financial and economic state of affairs, and about measures and decisions, we are not speaking about a government policy. We speak about a national effort in which every citizen in our beloved country participates and to which every individual in our society contributes, each within his specialization, ability, means, and method. It is important that these efforts be collective, and that all efforts are pooled to achieve all the national and pan-Arab objectives to which his majesty has committed himself. Brother Dr Fahd and Dr 'Abdallah, I thank you for this meeting. I hope I will have the opportunity to benefit from your viewpoints and readings continuously.

[Al-Fanik and Al-Maliki] We too thank you Mr Prime Minister for this opportunity.

Cabinet Reviews Next Year's State Budget

JN1510190588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session this evening under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. The Council of Ministers reviewed the broad outlines of next fiscal year's budget. The Council of Ministers decided that next year's state budget should abide by the following principles:

1. Reducing the deficit in the general budget by stages in a manner that will reduce the dificit in respect to the gross national product.

2. Directing the state's public expenditures toward local services and products in a manner that will decrease payments in foreign currency.

3. Maintaining the current prices of basic food stuffs and supplies and continuing to subsidize them.

4. Continuing to meet all the financial obligations of the government's servicing of debts.

5. Adopting policies and measures to reinforce the balance of payments in favor of the state and enriching the Kingdom's reserves of foreign currency.

Michel 'Awn Urges Recognition of Government

PM1710123588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 12-18 Oct 88 pp 22-24

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, military government head and Army commander, by George al-Salibi in Beirut; date not specified]

[Text] [Al-Salibi] In previous statements you have said that legitimacy is determined by people and not by the Constitution alone. Does this apply to the government in West Beirut headed by Prime Minister al-Huss, who in this case can cleave to the legitimacy that stems from the people rather than traditions and constitutions?

['Awn] What would have happened if there had been a vacuum on 23 September and if a government had not been formed? I said then that we would take a practical step to provide the things that are vital to the people, to leave no room for fear. Because in the end it is the people who make a president for the Republic, not vice versa. And this statement is still correct. But the government exists now and the potential vacuum did not develop. A government was formed to replace the previous one, and it could constitute a way out for a solution, because it represents everyone according to the Constitution and traditions.

If the rejectionist section complements the government by adopting a stand through which it considers itself a legitimate government, that will lead us to partition. That section can be considered a political force opposing the government within the systems endorsing opposition. In that case we would welcome it. But for the individuals of that group to consider that they represent the government would be to assume a capacity according to the law. In reality there are two legitimacies: They have popular support on the other side and we have popular support on this side—which is itself a partition.

[Al-Salibi] And what is the way out?

['Awn] The way out lies in recognizing this government and allowing its members to come to the Council of Ministers. Because this government will hand over legitimacy at another stage to an elected president. A Syrian paper said that we are a Zionist government, although Lutfi Jabir, Nabih Birri's representative, is a member of the government and the Military Council. So are we to consider Jabir a Zionist? And can we consider Quraytim, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' representative in the government, a Zionist as well? If we are Zionists, let them send us their ministers to obstruct any Zionist decisions this interim government may adopt.

If they have the capability to stop Zionism at the decisionmaking level, why don't they participate? In fact we are dealing with stands which lack seriousness and whose aim is to lay hold of the homeland—stands that we are openly against and shall resist by all means. We hope that our Arab brothers will understand the situation and adopt a suitable stand in dealing with us for the sake of Lebanon's interests and unity, because we did not land from the moon; we are from the heart of the homeland and part of every Arab cause.

[Al-Salibi] Have you made contacts with the Arab states regarding this issue?

['Awn] I have called the representatives. The Egyptian, Iraqi, and Tunisian charges d'affaires responded. I gave them very clear messages which leave no room for haggling and asked them to play the role of being our embassies in the world and in the other Arab states. They kindly carried away the messages. Undoubtedly the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's stand helped in the recent crisis to return to a point of understanding over the future of the situation under a major Arab state that has adopted an honorable stand in Lebanon since the war started. And this encourages us to continue to shoulder burdens and responsibilities.

[Al-Salibi] Given the convulsive attitudes that prevail, do you expect a military escalation in the near future?

['Awn] I rule it out completely at present.

[Al-Salibi] It is known that the Lebanese Forces are a group of military militias and independent civilian institutions and that their full acceptance of your military government prompts one to believe they have obtained assurances preserving their existence and protecting their resources.

['Awn] The Lebanese Forces have agreed to a comprehensive solution under which they themselves would be disbanded. We have not come to clash with the Forces. The Forces' leaders agreed on a strategy for a complete and comprehensive solution, provided that what applies to others applies to them. So the Forces no longer have a future political plan and so cannot be in breach of the proposed and agreed solutions. And it is within that framework that our future relations with the Forces lie.

[Al-Salibi] In the short or long term?

['Awn] Basically, the solution is not between the Forces and the Army alone, or between the state and the militias. It lies in a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese dilemma. What applies to the Socialists in the mountains, Amal in the suburb and the south, Al-Muraddah in the north, and the parties in general applies fully to the Lebanese Forces in the future.

[Al-Salibi] As we are talking about the Lebanese Forces, there are many rumors about your exclusion of some leading elements from the Forces. How true are these rumors?

['Awn] If these rumors are true—and I do not know how true they are—then the matter can be considered an internal affair concerning the Forces and nobody else. We do not interfere in its private affairs and have no information about what happened. But if such a thing has taken place, then it is purely an internal affair.

[Al-Salibi] The political reality is that there are two governments, regardless of the fact that you do not recognize the other one...

['Awn] (Interrupting) There is only one legitimate government, formed according to the Constitution, and that is my government and the civilian administration in the western area similar to that set up by Walid Junblatt in the mountains.

[Al-Salibi] How will employees and administrative staff be dealt with on the ground?

['Awn] I have issued a circular and my position has been legal. I am currently working to resurrect the country from the ruins and restore it, for my own and others' sake. As for supplying commodities, they are available in the eastern area except for actual cash, which is available at the Central Bank. We can dispense with this by dealing in other currencies. The dollar and the Franc are available in the eastern area, where there is cash liquidity as well. But as my thinking is toward unification, it would be more appropriate to proceed from the Central Bank. I consider any initiative harming a citizen's life a war crime. So we must control our behavior.

[Al-Salibi] How will the government compel employees to deal with it?

['Awn] I want a state of law, and I shall compel them to deal with it. As for those who refuse to deal with me for cogent reasons, it will be for the judge and not me to decide. I know well how employees should work. Anyone who breaks the law must have a justified excuse. For instance, if he has received a death threat and so cannot deal with me, that is a justified excuse. But if no one has prevented him from dealing with me and he refuses to do so voluntarily, there are no options where the state is concerned. If the Al-Huss administration is telling employees not to abide by my government's decisions, then partition is inevitable.

Partition is like a situation in which a couple have decided on an amicable divorce but it is in fact sought by one party only. It is not enough for me alone to want unification. The other side must also must be for it. With regard to laws, constitutions, and traditions, Prime Minister al-Huss' government is not legitimate. If we try to ignore these constitutions and traditions, everyone will be forming his own government.

[Al-Salibi] At the regional level, if Syria continues its refusal to receive a delegate from you side, will you enter into the blocs game?

['Awn] I consider that a hypothetical question, obviously. We have expressed our desire to be in touch with Syria in order to negotiate over ways of securing solutions and to explain the situation. But Syria adopted a hostile line only minutes after the government was formed. It announced, via its allies, its rejection of our position. For a week now it still has not defined its position regarding our request to send a delegate. We submitted the request officially to the government so that we would not fall victim to confusion in stands. We are not seeking the head of Syria but rather a sovereign and independent Lebanon. We support and appreciate any initiative made to help us achieve that objective. That is why we support any initiative aimed at achieving our objectives.

We are not against Syria. We are for ourselves and Lebanon. We want Syria to be strong, to remain a sister, and to help us. But at the same time we also wish ourselves a strength that would preserve sovereignty over and independence on our territory. We will welcome any positive initiative that anyone wishes to make; of course, without entering into the policy of blocs. We are just trying to recover our sovereignty and dignity.

[Al-Salibi] According to the international and regional concept, where must help be sought in these pressing circumstances, to secure suitable solutions to the crisis we are experiencing: from fraternal states or from Western states? Iraq, for instance, has expressed readiness to help. What is your position on this?

['Awn] Iraq's stand and similar stands are appreciated. The struggle was over Lebanon's identity. It is Arab. It must be acknowledged here that Arabism is not confined to a particular party. It is for the Arab world as whole. And if we maintain that affiliation, why should Iraq, or even Egypt, be banned from recognizing Lebanon's legitimate government or helping it to endure its ordeal? Unless we have become a kind of governorate or a state under which there is no right to object. So long as we are a free, sovereign, independent state, we belong to the Arab world from the Gulf to the Ocean.

[Al-Salibi] Regarding diplomatic relations, what measures will you take against governments that hesitate to recognize your government?

['Awn] All fraternal Arab states as well as other friendly states and the states of the world have criteria for determining whether or not a government is legitimate. Until now the Constitution has determined the ultimate legitimacy of any government. Under the Constitution the head of state rules. Constitutionally, our government was formed in a legitimate way. Realistically, its formation conformed with traditions maintained in Lebanon. If you want to know the true meaning that determines the legitimate frameworks of the government: We are the legitimate government. If people want to support Lebanon's unity they must recognize General 'Awn's government because, it is legitimate legally and because the

policy of unification prompts that. This is because, if an illegitimate government is recognized, there will be two governments—and partition would follow. All sides must be consistent in their stands and policies.

[Al-Salibi] If the situation continues as it is and pressures remain an obstacle to the election of a president for the Republic, do you expect the government to continue for 6 years, or will there be another solution?

['Awn] No one believes that this situation will remain as it is, because matters develop. The equilibrium can change as a result of the dynamism of the continuing development. So elections could be held at any moment.

[Al-Salibi] Do you not believe that partition is the last episode in the Lebanese war scenario?

['Awn] The gathering in the western area is not a ministerial gathering. The pressure is not Lebanese. This must be known to everyone. The pressure is imposed on us. We must be clear, without any camouflage. The Lebanese are subject to regional pressures, and our historical circumstances prompt us to carry the banner of resistance to defend ourselves and others.

[Al-Salibi] Have any contacts been made with Prime Minister al-Huss?

['Awn] There are indirect contacts with all parties with a view to easing the acute tensions.

[Al-Salibi] If the south is the subject of an Israeli attack, how will your government deal with the situation?

['Awn] How will we be able to confront it when we cannot go beyond the museum area (the contact point between the eastern and western areas)? We will, of course, confront with a political position, nothing else.

[Al-Salibi] Regarding your relations with the press, will censorship be reimposed over newspapers and press publications, so adversely affecting press freedom in Lebanon?

['Awn] Of course not. But we are asking the press not to transcend the law too much. We will not apply the law to it. But the truth must not be ignored. For instance, after we promoted a a number of officers the newspaper AL-SAFIR said: "'Awn's government bribes officers." We asking the press to be merciful to itself, because false headings harm the paper in the end. We have always hoped that the press would adhere to the equilibrium of non-lavish praise but give praise where it was due—only without fabrication at the same time, that's all.

[Al-Salibi] Regarding your relations with the politicians, it is being said that there is implied agreement between you and [Lebanese National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih as a result of numerous contacts made behind the scenes.

['Awn] Our relationship with Iddih goes back to the period that preceded my appointment. It is maintained indirectly via friends. I hold him in great esteem, because he inspires trust and patriotism.

[Al-Salibi] Are you optimistic about a happy ending throughout Lebanon?

['Awn] Certainly. First of all we believe in ourselves, our rights, and our territory. So we hope that others will adopt positive stands toward us while accepting that we are acting within our own boundaries and on our own territory. We also believe in our rights. Thus, I hope that stands will be positive at the levels of individuals and states. We have the right to be a free, sovereign, and independent homeland, as well as the right to exercise our freedom. We wish our brothers well and we hope that they too will be strong in exercising their sovereignty and freedom so that we will be able to maintain maximum cooperation with them.

[Al-Salibi] A final word?

['Awn] A fraternal message to the Arab brothers, so that they will know that we shall remain a beating heart and a bright thought in carrying our Arab message, hoping that they will look carefully at the situation in Lebanon without fearing its external appearance and back Lebanon, because this battle is aimed at restoring a state and a homeland. There are crude stances and there is confrontation here, but without these nothing cannot be restored. Thus we say that stands must be both strong and decisive.

Views Possibility of Partition

PM1710142788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Oct 88 p 3

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by Ghassan Shirbil in Beirut on 13 Oct 1988]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shirbil] Since 23 September Lebanon has lived without a president, there are fears that a Chamber of Deputies speaker may not be elected, and the government's position is known. Are we at the beginning of partition?

['Awn] Partition is something imaginary. It does not exist, neither in the conscience of the Lebanese nor in their wills, regardless of the obstacles.

The objectives of the game of intimidation and partition are known. I confirm that once the sand piles imposed by foreign wills are removed, the Lebanese will meet in a normal way. We are in a state of grief because of this reality, but we are not in a state of desperation. Our decision is to resist any partition or division, and there is no way we will forfeit a single inch or a citizen.

[Shirbil] Over the past few days the Americans and the Syrians have expressed their adherence to the agreement between them over the presidential elections in Lebanon, which you were the first to reject. What is your position today?

['Awn] With my respect to U.S. influence in the world and the region, on the grounds that it is a major country, and with my respect to the Syrian brothers, to whom we harbor love in our heart, we say the following: They can influence us but we refuse to let them determine our destiny on our behalf. Let them reach agreements and implement them on their territories. But for them to reach an agreement on Lebanon in the absence of the Lebanese and tell us to implement it, this would mean laying a hand [on the homeland]. I believe that the U.S.-Syrian agreement has been a matter of history since 18 September. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Some believe that the political dilemma will lead to a military escalation and perhaps an attempt to overturn the situation and the balances in the areas that are under your government.

['Awn] We are against any military escalation and do not want to cause bloodshed, as this would harm the Lebanese. But if a war is imposed on us, I emphasize that it will not be a civil war, but rather a nationalist war, that is, a war of independence. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Do you expect the presidential elections to be held shortly?

['Awn] The election process concerns the Chamber of Deputies and we hope that they will be held soon.

As for us as a government, we are completely ready to take all necessary measures to ensure the freedom of the elections and the freedom of the deputies.

[Shirbil] Some say that you will not initiate the presidential elections before you become the sole or strongest candidate in it.

['Awn] This is absolutely untrue. This government was formed after it proved difficult to elect a president as constitutionally scheduled. Its main concern is to embark on something that would lead to the elections being held.

[Shirbil] There are reports that your government may be expanded. Is this true?

['Awn] There is temporization at present. The possibility of expanding exists.

[Shirbil] It has been reported that behind such temporization lies U.S. advice to both you and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

['Awn] There has been no advice of this sort. We are reasonable enough and act according to our principles and conviction, without any advice. [passage omitted]

Salim al-Huss Discusses Crisis, Arab Stand

JN1810090488 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Oct 88 pp 3, 20

[By 'Imad Jawdiyah]

[Text] Beirut—In a comprehensive interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that the Arab nation will experience a new tragedy that will be similar to the Palestinian tragedy if the Arab brothers do not act quickly to save Lebanon from the peril of partitioning. He said: I cannot imagine how the Arab brothers can adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward what is taking place in Lebanon after it has reached a stage where its very existence is threatened.

Dr al-Huss called on the Arab brothers to meet at the highest level possible and as soon as possible to discuss this serious issue and adopt the common stands that are needed to tackle this state of affairs. He also called for the adoption of an initiative that will be commensurate to the magnitude of the peril that threatens Lebanon and the Arab nation.

In reply to a question on whether he blames the Arab brothers for not acting to save Lebanon Dr al-Huss said: We cannot imagine how the Arab brothers can adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward what is taking place in Lebanon. He added: Following the failure to elect a new president and the formation by former President Amin al-Jumayyil of a provisional government that violates the national charter and constitutional norms, Lebanon now faces the threat of partitioning in the wake of the partitioning of the government, thus definitively entrenching the partitioning of Lebanon. If, God forbid, this takes place then an old Israeli dream will be fulfilled. No one ignores that Israel views Lebanon as the weak link in the Arab chain, and that it has always endeavored to dismember Lebanon's unity as a first step to undermining the unity of the other Arab countries.

Dr al-Huss added: From this premise, we find ourselves at a serious crossroad of whether to be or not to be. Therefore, we have every right to expect an Arab initiative that will be commensurate to the danger that threatens Lebanon, and subsequently the Arab nation. We will not be exaggerating if we say that the conspiracy against Lebanon has reached its climax. Unless the Arab brothers confront this conspiracy as it should be confronted, the Arab nation may face a new tragedy that will be similar to the Palestinian tragedy. Dr al-Huss said he expects the Arab brothers to meet at the highest level to tackle this serious situation and to adopt the necessary steps in this respect.

Assessing the tense state of affairs in Lebanon, the Lebanese prime minister explained that his country is experiencing an anomalous situation, and that it has become hostage to those who are not committed to it.

Al-Huss said he believes that the key to the solution lies in an agreement on a future president. He said this was the basis of the Syrian-U.S. understanding on which we have pinned high hopes. He said: Any party which wants to help Lebanon overcome the obstacle of the Lebanese presidential elections must proceed from this reality because Lebanon's unity must transcend all other considerations.

Dr al-Huss said his rejection of a federation or political decentralization stems from his conviction that it is merely an attempt to cover up for the partition plan. He said that federalism or political decentralization will ultimately result in separating the Lebanese on sectarian bases and will be the final step on the road to the fragmentation of Lebanon.

In reply to what observers say that the current state of affairs is the result of a power struggle between two governments, Dr al-Huss said: Such talk is unsound. There is a crisis involving the status of the government. There is no struggle between two governments. There is only one legitimate government, the one I head. As for the so-called government of Michel 'Awn, it does not exist in our opinion. Because its formation had taken place in violation of the national charter which is based on a well-acknowledged and well-established tradition, that of distributing key posts to the three major communities. According to this tradition, the post of prime minister does not belong to a Maronite. Therefore, the appointment of a Maronite as prime minister is in violation of the national charter.

Dr al-Huss said that the nonacceptance by three ministers in the 'Awn government to assume their responsibilities has deprived this government of the legal quorum it needs to hold any meeting. It has also deprived it of the prerogative to exercise the executive powers. That's why we have affirmed that our government is still the constitutional government, and enjoys all the prerogatives that allow it to exercise the executive powers, and secure the continuity of the state under the constitution.

On the French proposal to task international forces to supervise security in the session for the election of a president, Dr al-Huss said: We have explicitly stated our rejection of this proposal. He added: While we highly appreciate France's desire to assist Lebanon in extricating itself from its dilemma, our stand on the French proposal can be summed up in one important point. This point is that the reasons for the nonelection of a president so far have nothing to do with security in the vicinity of the Chamber of Deputies. They are linked to the disagreement on the person of the president and on his political affiliation.

He said: If agreement is reached on the future president, then the question of security becomes a secondary issue. If agreement is not reached, then no place in Lebanon can be safe. What interests us is not to guarantee security in a certain area for some hours only to elect a president. What we need is security for all of Lebanon over the years the next president will be in office.

Ja'ja' Willing To Meet Birri, Others for Talks

NC1710161688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' announced a new position today. It comes as part of the effort to open up and move out of political impasses, and as part of the effort to ensure freedom of decision-making.

Commenting on Amal leader Nabih Birri's declaration that he is willing to go to Al-Qattarah to meet with him, provided he announces his rejection of the Israeli policy line, Dr Ja'ja' said: I have read with great interest all that Mr Birri has said. My spontaneous and natural response is to welcome the suggestion and express my willingness to meet with him or any other Lebanese figure at Bkirki, Mansur Palace, or elsewhere. Like him, we believe that an end to the dispute can be brought about through understanding among the Lebanese and through their coming together without any guardianship.

Dr Ja'ja' added: What we rely upon primarily is our intrinsic strength. The line we follow is the nationalist Lebanese policy line and no other, whether Israeli or otherwise. We have stressed this publicly more than once since 15 January 1986, under very critical circumstances and amid strong foreign pressures opposed to our national orientation. The only immutable attitude we have is that which concerns Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence. Everything else is subject to change and development.

The Lebanese Forces commander declared: We do not want to restrict the Arab world to Syria alone. At the same time, we wish to establish fraternal and balanced relations with Syria.

Ja'ja' announced: We oppose partition more strongly than any other party. We are ready to discuss anything so long as the objective is liberation, unification, and change. Since 23 September the opportunity has become greater than it was prior to that date, both with regard to reaching understanding about a president and with regard to agreeing on serious and real reforms. What is important is that we should meet as Lebanese, in the context of Lebanon's interest alone.

Paqraduni Interview With AL-ITTIHAD Cited

NC1510121788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has affirmed that the strength of

the eastern area is the guarantee of Lebanon's unity. It is the sole free Lebanese area and the only one capable of surviving to liberate the remaining parts of Lebanon, he said.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD, Attorney Paqraduni said: We have ensured the minimum degree of military and political balance with Syria and we consider that the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces have ensured the required minimum degree of strategic balance with Syria.

In answer to a question, the deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces stated that what happened in northern Al-Matn was an operation to strengthen the domestic situation. It was in line with the Lebanese Forces' strategy, the central aim of which is to unify Christian guns and ranks and prevent the creation of a multiplicity of militias, security pockets, and security authorities, he declared.

Attorney Paqraduni maintained that for the first time in the history of the war in Lebanon there is a fighting Army and fighting Lebanese Forces, and there is harmony between the two. He added that the Lebanese Army has become the legitimate authority and has a political plan which is naturally in conformity with the Lebanese Forces' plan calling for the evacuation of foreign armies from Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese Forces proved their ability to make an independent decision when they rejected presidential candidate Sulayman Franjiyah on 18 August, and also when they rejected the U.S.-Syrian-backed candidate Mikha'il Dahir on 18 September.

The Lebanese Forces deputy commander went on to say: We have proven that we are capable of independent decision-making, and we are capable of it because we possess an intrinsic force that can defend the decisions we make. Therefore, we will continue to strengthen our political and military potentials. He affirmed that the Lebanese Forces can take political action to stop any international decision that harms them. However, he pointed out that the Lebanese Forces support international decisions; they are not opposed to them.

Paqraduni said that the presidential elections should be held as quickly as possible. He declared that the Lebanese Forces support General 'Awn's government because it is legal. He expressed the Lebanese Forces' readiness for dialogue and pointed out that there is increasing resentment in the ranks of the Lebanese Muslims against the Syrian role and influence in Lebanon. He noted that there is also considerable grumbling and restlessness among the Muslims over Syrian actions in Lebanon. He asserted that a time will come when the Islamic Lebanese position will be the same as the Christian Lebanese position; that is, no to Israel and no to Syria. Then, he said, Lebanon's unity will be achieved.

Paqraduni said that the Murphy-Al-Asad agreement was stillborn and adherence to it means a continued impasse where the election is concerned. He pointed out that the U.S.-Syrian agreement virtually means that the presidential elections will not take place, and that this agreement is now behind the present crisis. He noted that the Lebanese file must not be confined to Syria, stressing that it should be considered an Arab responsibility. He called on the Arab League to take action on a comprehensive Arab level to tackle the Lebanese issue.

Paqraduni said that Syria must be saved from Lebanon despite itself, because Syria is opposed to any Arab intervention in Lebanon, stands against the Arabization of Lebanon, and wants to be left alone to find a solution to the problem. We call on the Arab League, he declared, to convene a conference and adopt resolutions to supervise the elections. He said that the Lebanese issue is an international and not just a U.S. responsibility. Washington must get rid of the U.S.-Syrian agareement, not seek unilaterally to find a solution to the Lebanese issue, he stated. The permanent members of the UN Security Council must take part in the search for a solution. He called on the Security Council to adopt the necessary resolutions drawn from the French initiative to facilitate the presidential election.

Paqraduni disclosed that there had been contacts with all moderate Muslim figures. He noted that the Junblatt-Birri alliance is leaning toward establishing a Shi'ite state in the Syrian-controlled areas. He called for the election for speaker to be held in accordance with the Constitution and covenant, through agreement on a speaker of reconciliation capable of bringing about national accord.

Paqraduni noted that the Lebanese Forces had been in touch with friendly Arab countries and urged them to take an interest in the Lebanese issue. He pointed out that the Arab leaders are confused about Lebanon and this confusion will be the driving force for an Arab initiative on Lebanon.

Christians 'Will Boycott' 18 Oct Session

NC1710172788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] At a time when Lebanon is heading toward a new, difficult constitutional deadline, the majority of political, parliamentary, and party leaders have emphasized that the Chamber session scheduled to be held at Al-Najmah Square tomorrow will not convene. Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has called for the convening of the session at which he will be reelected speaker or a successor will be chosen.

Citing parliamentary sources, REUTER reports that the Christian deputies will boycott the session, which will lead the country toward a new constitutional crisis and into a dark, black tunnel.

The agency maintains that a failure to elect a Chamber speaker will render Lebanon without a president and a speaker and will undoubtedly undermine any hope that the deputies will elect a new president to end the constitutional vacuum.

Qansuh Says No Election for Speaker 18 Oct

NC1710180388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, returned from Damascus this afternoon. In an arrival statement, Eng Qansuh affirmed that Syria's President al-Asad is taking great pains on behalf of Lebanon's unity and the liberation of its land. Eng Qansuh firmly ruled out the possibility that the elections for the Chamber of Deputies speaker and other officials will take place tomorrow. This, he said, is because the partitionists are forging ahead with the isolationist-Israeli scheme which is proving disastrous to our kinfolk in the eastern areas under the Lebanese Forces.

Views 17 Oct General Strike

NC1710064488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Eng 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon, has emphasized the importance of the general strike that will be staged today. In a statement on Saturday, Qansuh affirmed that the Lebanese citizens can confront the plot and will not allow the partitionist plans and the schemes for the settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] to be implemented, whatever the price.

Qansuh condemned the Iraqi regime's stand of supporting the illegitimate military government that is working to partition and fragment Lebanon, destroy its unity and Arab character, and turn it into an Israeli protectorate in implementation of the Zionist plan supported by the new Baghdad pact.

Qansuh drew attention to the fact that nationalist and progressive parties and forces will meet early next week to achieve a clear formula to confront the plot by appropriate means.

Quorum Not Met in Chamber; No Speaker Elected

NC1810103988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] The required quorum for holding the Chamber of Deputies session today to elect a chamber speaker, deputy speaker, and members of the Chamber bureau has not been achieved. To reach a quorum, 39 deputies are required; only 26 deputies attended today's session to perform their electoral duty. The legal time set for convening the session, 1100, has elapsed without the required number of deputies attending.

In light of this development, the deputies who went to the Chamber today held a meeting at Speaker Husayn al-Husayni's office to adopt a decision that will define the stand of the deputies in West Beirut on what happened regarding the Chamber bureau election session and the boycott of this session by the deputies in the eastern area.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1610201088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, and a number of ministry officials.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Chedli Klibi said: It is the destiny of Syria—which has been persistently struggling for pan-Arab causes and is shouldering heavy burdens for the sake of Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and security as part of its Arab nation—that it is now urged, foremost among Arab countries and in cooperation with these countries, to offer further sacrifices to avoid what cannot be rectified throughout generations.

Klibi said his current visit to Syria is part of the direct consultations he will hold with a number of Arab countries to confront the dangers Israel has been working to pose for decades.

He pointed to the efforts exerted by the Arab League General Secretariat regarding fratenal Lebanon which, since 23 September, has been experiencing difficult circumstances as part of its lengthy, grave ordeal.

Concluding his statement, Klibi said: I am certain that my consultations with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, a man whose name has been coupled with pan-Arab struggle, will open horizons for positive action. This action has become a pressing need called for by all the Lebanese for the sake of Lebanon's independence, the unity of its people, and its sovereignty over all of its territory in an atmosphere of justice, equality, and accord among all of its sons.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN1710143988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. They discussed Arab and Lebanese developments.

Talks With Khaddam

JN1710193188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] At 1800 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and developments in the occupied land. They also talked about Lebanon and attempts by certain forces associated with the Israeli enemy to fragment the country and split its national unity.

The vice president and Klibi discussed the risks inherent in maintaining silence over this attempt and the need to tackle it in the interests of Lebanon and its Arab identity.

The vice president emphasized Syria will approach such partitionist attempts that serve the Israeli enemy and run counter both to Lebanese national interests and to pan-Arab interests with firmness.

He declared Syria will extend every assistance to the Lebanese brothers so they can regain their national unity, safeguard their Arab identity, and liberate their land from Israeli occupation.

Information Minister Returns From Jeddah

JN1410213588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Information Minister Muhammad Salman returned to Damascus this evening after leading Syria's delegation to a conference of Islamic nations' [information ministers] in Jeddah. [passage omitted)

Afghanistan

Vorontsov Holds Talks With Vice President

LD1710210188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan, had a courtesy meeting today at the Presidency with Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and ambassador and representative extraordinary of that country to the Republic of Afghanistan. During this meeting which was held in a complete friendly climate, topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Governor-General for 3 Provinces Appointed

LD1810024788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that based on Decree No 818 of Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, the post of governor-general for the provinces of Herat, Badghis, and Ghowr has been given to Mr Fazl Haq Khaliqiyar, minister without portfolio and governor of Herat.

According to another report, the Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that some time ago the council of representatives of the Nuristan people held a session and unanimously elected Mr (Dean Muhammad), son of (Sher Muhammad), as senator to the Republic of Afghanistan Milli Shura in accordance with the Paragraph 2, Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. Of course, after assessment of the relevant documents by the document commission of the Sena session, Mr (Dean Muhammad), son of (Sher Muhammad), will be accepted as a member of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Senate Sends Message to UN Secretary General

LD1710203888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Participants in a plenary Milli Shura Senate session sent the following message to the UN secretary general:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Message from the Senate of the Republic of Afghanistan to the UN secretary general.
His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:
First, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, we express our gratitude for your efforts on behalf of international peace, in particular for solving the situation around Afghanistan, to you personally, and to the representatives of the peace-loving countries who, during the current General Assembly session, spoke about the just cause of Afghanistan and supported the Geneva accords. Your Excellency, you have (?carried) out your tireless struggle for realizing the rights of (?contemporary) humanity. We believe you are following the Afghanistan situation and will work tirelessly for the implementation of the Geneva accords [words indistinct].

Your Excellency Secretary General, you have undoubtedly obtained, from international mass media, through your authorized representative, Mr Cordovez, and from Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan foreign minister, precise information about the situation in our country and Pakistan's violations [of the Geneva accords]. The process of realizing democracy in the Republic of Afghanistan based on the national reconciliation policy has taken practical form. A constitution was put into effect by the will of our people; popular representatives were elected via free elections; the parliament was revived after a 15-year hiatus; and the question of the presence of the Soviet limited military contingent, which was a pretext for the continuation of fratricide, was resolved with the signing of the Geneva accords.

Unfortunately, however, the fundamental purpose—peace, security, and the cessation of interference—was not achieved. Every day tens and hundreds of youths, elderly, children, women, and public property are subject to bloodshed and fire. To overlook this aspect endangers the entire world. Instead of putting out the fires of war, the supply of modern weapons has increased. Cities and populated areas, mosques, schools, and hospitals are being hit by ground-to-ground missiles and heavy weapons, and hundreds of innocent people are being killed in the most dreadful manner. The new waves of attacks every day erode our people's material and moral well-being.

If aggression, interference, and the dispatch of weapons to our land ceases, the constitution, the multiparty system, and our readiness to form a coalition government and to redistribute political power have created the necessary grounds for understanding, negotiation, ceasefire, and the maintenance of peace in the country, and for providing for the (?implementation) of the national reconciliation policy.

Your Excellency Secretary General, firmly believing in the victory of justice, we request that you to bring to the attention of the UN representatives the voice of the senators of Afghanistan regarding the establishment of peace, progress, stability, and security in our country and in the world. The Senate of Afghanistan believes that your credibility and prestige as UN secretary general can play a great role in mobilizing international public opinion in support of the noble cause of the Afghan people. We hope the UN will help us to arrive at the humanitarian and noble aims of the national reconciliation policy, to establish peace in our land, and to see the honorable return of Afghan refugees to their fatherland.

In conclusion, availing ourselves of this opportunity, we respectfully present our good wishes.
[Signed] The Senate of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan

Pakistani Envoy Summoned; 102d Protest Submitted
LD1710165088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reports that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon to hear the following protest from the deputy head of the First Political Section:

According to reports from responsible security authorities, a Pakistani helicopter twice entered Afghanistan's airspace on the morning and afternoon of 11 October to carry out destructive tasks in the (Ghagh Kotal) region. The Afghan Government conveys its strong protest to the Pakistani authorities concerning these obvious violations and aggression. The responsibility for the dangerous consequences of such provocative actions, which only aggravate the situation, will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

According to another report, the Foreign Ministry's coordination office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this evening Memorandum No 102 of the Republic of Afghanistan, which details 15 violations by Pakistan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords, was forwarded to UNGOMAP in Kabul. The memorandum gives comprehensive information about the nature of the violations and requests that they be assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, and the result presented to the Republic of Afghanistan and to the UN secretary general's envoy.

Rabbani Assumes Leadership of Rebel Alliance
BK1710110788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad , Oct 17 (AFP)—Burhanuddin Rabbani of the Jamiyat-e Eslami group took over as leader of the seven-party Afghan Resistance Alliance Monday and urged the Soviet Union to speed up its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. He also told a press conference here the mujahidin would be prepared to open negotiations with Moscow and ruled out any role for ex-king Zahir Shah in a future government in Afghanistan.

Mr. Rabbani, who returned at the weekend from a five-week tour of northern Afghanistan, said he had told rebel commanders to refrain from attacking withdrawing troops unless the Soviets carried out attacks themselves.

Mr. Rabbani was to have assumed the three-month rotating presidency of the Pakistan-based alliance September 15, replacing Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, but his trip delayed the switch.

"The Afghanistan problem was a military problem caused by the Soviet armed invasion and the solution lies in ending the military occupation as speedily as possible," he said.

He said all Soviet troops should be pulled out ahead of the February 15 deadline set under the April Geneva accords, notwithstanding the search for a broad-based government in Kabul.

Mr. Rabbani ruled out any coalition in Kabul under Afghan Prime Minister Muhammed Hasan Sharq, whom he described as "an old Soviet spy" and "a KGB agent who had no personal views."

He also termed as a "mistake" Moscow's decision to name First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov as ambassador to Kabul, saying he had initiated Afghan President Najibullah's unsuccessful national reconciliation policy last year.

The guerrilla chief said the mujahidin were ready to negotiate with the Soviet Union on the future of Afghanistan. There was a possibility of a direct dialogue but this would depend on Moscow's future course of action, he said.

Mr. Rabbani, whose moderate predecessor as alliance chief had supported exiled former monarch Zahir Shah as an acceptable leader of the country's warring factions, dismissed the possibility of assigning the ex-king any role.

"Zahir Shah is now part of history and the Afghan nation is not ready to accept him again," he said, echoing the views of radical fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Mr. Rabbani said the mujahidin had recently "completely" liberated five Afghan provinces—Takhar, Konduz, Bamian, Konar and Paktika—while three, Badakhshan, Vardak and Qandahar Provinces were "about to fall."

Contradicting claims by the Kabul regime, he said the mujahidin had established a good administrative network and opened schools and health centres in the liberated areas.

He reiterated a demand for international recognition of the interim government formed by the mujahidin alliance, which is based in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Kabul Details Recent Operations in Provinces
LD1610211888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] As a result of crushing blows by the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province, 9 extremists have been crushed and 16 wounded. Two missile launchers and four trenches of the extremists were destroyed.

During a mopping-up operation by the Armed Forces yesterday in Ghazni Province 7 extremists were crushed and 13 injured. One rocket, 20 shells, 7 kg of explosives, 10 anti-personnel mines, and 9 antivehicle mines were seized by the country's security forces.

As a result of combat operations by the Armed Forces in the area of Andar, Ghazni Province, seven extremists, including Jalil Akhundzada, were killed yesterday.

During recent mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces in the vicinity of Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province, six armed men belonging to Gulbuddin's extremist group were crushed.

An arms and ammunition store of extremists belonging to the Khalis group were seized by the country's security forces in [word indistinct] district of Nangarhar Province. Eleven shells, a number of light weapons, and 11 surface-to-surface missiles were seized from this store.

Rebels Capture District Capital, Government Garrison

BK1710134488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Oct 17 (AFP)—Afghan rebels captured a district capital of western Farah Province Thursday after a month-long siege, forcing Kabul government troops to flee, resistance sources here said Monday.

The government forces escaped from Gulistan District into neighbouring Dilaram District on the Qandahar-Herat highway after Muslim rebels launched a heavy attack on the district Thursday, the sources said, adding that 20 soldiers defected and joined the mujahidin.

The guerrillas found 35 bodies in the abandoned capital, the sources said, adding that three mujahidin were killed and four injured in the fighting.

Meanwhile in Islamabad, mujahidin of the Jamiyat-e Eslami group said rebels had captured an Afghan Army garrison at Baharak, in northern Afghanistan, on October 4, taking more than 700 prisoners and seizing a large number of weapons and armour.

A Jamiyat spokesman said the rebels had captured several thousand light weapons and 22 armoured vehicles, as well as mortars and artillery. Baharak, situated some 30 kilometres (19 miles) south of Fayzabad, the capital of Badakshan, is an important depot for food, uniforms and ammunition.

Rebel sources in Peshawar, in northwest Pakistan, also said that mujahidin made a strong rocket attack against Kishla-e Jadid, a government stronghold and headquarters of the 15th Afghan Army a few kilometres (miles) northwest of Qandahar Sunday. They fired some 50 rockets from several points, destroying a dozen tanks and other armour and killing 20 government troops, the sources said.

Qandahar, the country's second largest city, has been virtually encircled by rebels for several weeks, but government forces still hold several areas, notably the heavily defended airport.

Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Operations

MiG Downed; 2 Tanks Destroyed

BK1610023088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] According to reports the mujahidin occupied a military post at (Anzerghai) near Qandahar city yesterday. The reports say the mujahidin have increased pressure on Qandahar city, area military posts, and the Qandahar airport. During the mujahidin attack on the (Anzerghai) military post, many troops of the Najibullah regime fled leaving behind heavy artillery, anti-aircraft guns, and a large amount of ammunition.

In their attack on Shindand District in Farah Province last Wednesday [12 October] the mujahidin destroyed two tanks and shot down one MiG fighter aircraft. At least 56 Kabul troops were killed and 4 mujahidin were martyred in the attack.

Post Near Qandahar Attacked

BK1710062988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin in Afghanistan launched an effective attack on the security post of (Sahib Zena), nearly 2 km from Qandahar city. During the ambush, the mujahidin captured 51 Kabul regime soldiers and destroyed two tanks and a military truck.

Mujahidin 'Control' 5 Provinces

BK1710113488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The chairman of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, Professor Rabbani, has said mujahidin are in full control of five provinces: Paktia, Konarha, Takhar, Konduz, and Bamian, while they are almost in control of Badakhshan. Vardak and Qandahar Provinces are about to fall to the mujahidin.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the mujahidin are in control of 80 cities and towns and are running their own civil administration. Poppy cultivation in the liberated area has been banned.

He said position of the puppet regime in Afghanistan is very weak. The mujahidin have the upper hand and are attacking strategic enemy military centers. He said recent rocket attacks on Kabul were launched by the puppet regime in Afghanistan. [sentence as heard]

Professor Rabbani said the mujahidin have received the green light for direct talks with the Soviet Union, but declined to elaborate.

India

Execution of Indira Gandhi Assassins Postponed

BK1810045888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] We have just heard that the execution of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh in the Indira Gandhi assassination case has been postponed. No fresh date has been decided. A spokesman of the Delhi administration said the postponement takes place in view of the mercy petition submitted to the president by Kehar Singh's son. He said a fresh date will not be announced till the president takes a decision in the matter.

UN Envoy Reiterates Position on Jammu-Kashmir

BK1810031888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] India has again made it clear that the Kashmir issue can be solved bilaterally on the basis of the Simla Agreement. New Delhi has asserted at the United Nations that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Speaking at the UN General Assembly Social Committee, the Indian diplomat, Mrs Bhagwati Mukherjee, said the right of self-determination cannot be applied to integral parts of an independent and sovereign state. She said India's position on this issue is well known and needs no further clarification.

Earlier, the Pakistani delegate raised the issue in the context of self-determination in Palestine and Namibia.

Muslim League Leaders Injured in Kerala Clash

BK1810035288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] In Kerala, about 200 people, including some policemen, were injured when police resorted to lathi [baton] charge in Calicut yesterday to disperse two clashing groups. Violence broke out when the workers of the Indian Union Muslim League, IUML, and the Students Federation of India, SSI, allegedly attacked each other during demonstrations. The IUML workers were taking out a procession against an alleged partisan attitude of the state police in the violent incident in Nadapuram. The SSI volunteers were also taking out a procession in the city.

The Muslim League leaders, Mr B.B. Abdullah Koya, MP, and ex-minister Mr U.A. Beeran, were among those who received injuries.

Gurkha Group Threatens New Separatist Campaign

BK1710123188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Gurkha hardliners threatened Monday to launch a new campaign for a separate state within India after rejecting a peace pact giving limited autonomy to the hill people of Nepalese origin.

Chhetre Subba, chief of the Gurkha Volunteer Cell (GVC), told reporters in the eastern Indian town of Siliguri Monday that the GVC would soon begin a "tough and democratic" movement aimed at creating Gurkhaland, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

The GVC is composed of hardliners who have rejected an August 22 accord signed by the Indian Federal Government, the Marxist administration of West Bengal State and the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF).

The accord ended a two-year campaign spearheaded by the GNLF for a separate Gurkhaland state in the hill town of Darjeeling, on the northern-most tip of West Bengal. The campaign left 200 people dead and caused millions of dollars in damage to the region's tea and tourism industries.

The accord provides for the election of a 28-member Gurkha hill council by Darjeeling's Nepalese-speaking people to control 19 areas, including education, agriculture, transport and small industries. The election is to be held no later than December.

Mr. Subba was quoted as saying Monday that the GVC would contest the polls as the "first step towards my movement for the ultimate goal of Gurkhaland." He disclosed no details of his planned movement beyond saying that it would be "tough and democratic."

Mr. Subba's statement came a day after men from the GNLF and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), the main partner in West Bengal's Left Front Ministry, completed an arms surrender which began on October 2, PTI said.

More than 10,000 GNLF activists and 2,500 CPI-M cadres deposited before Darjeeling district officials 10,000 home-made guns, 800 pistols, rifles and 2,000 powerful bombs, besides a huge quantity of ammunition and explosives, PTI said.

President Venkataraman Leaves for Bhutan 18 Oct

BK1810051588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The president, Mr Venkataraman, will inaugurate the Chuka Hydel [hydroelectric] project in Bhutan during his 4-day state visit to that country. The president, who left New Delhi this morning for Thimpu, will also have wide-ranging discussions with King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and the visit, which comes close to Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit last month, will strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. Mr Venkataraman is the first president to visit Bhutan since 1974, when Mr V.V. Giri attended the coronation of the present king of Bhutan.

Asia's largest underground power house, Chuka Hydel project, with Indian assistance, will generate 336 megawatts of power. [sentence as heard] Our correspondent adds that the surplus power of about 270 megawatts has been purchased by India for the benefit of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Bihar. [passage omitted]

Iran

Velayati Agrees to Arvand River Dredging

LD1810085488 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Future peace talks in Geneva will be fruitful if Iraq relents its current obstinacy, and is ready to cooperate for implementation of the U.N. chief's plan, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today. He recalled his earlier statement that the Iraqi delegation lacked necessary authority in the talks in this regard.

Velayati addressing a press conference at the Foreign Ministry said if Iraq had not raised issues irrelevant to the text of the U.N. Resolution 598, the Geneva peace talks could and should have produced tangible results. Matters raised by Iraq that were irrelevant to the context of the talks made it impossible to attain concrete results, he added.

Explaining Iran's position towards the formula proposed by Javier Perez de Cuellar, Velayati said now it is up to Iraq to harmonize its position and views with those of the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council, and not to further delay the full implementation of Resolution 598 which he said is in the interest of regional peace and security. However, he added discussions at expert level on the secretary general's formula are presently in progress.

The formula includes the withdrawal of forces to international boundaries according to the 1975 accord, Iran's self-restraint in searching ships in the Persian Gulf, exchange of prisoners of war and lastly dredging of the Arvand River, Velayati elaborated.

He said Iran accepted the four-point plan on conditions that the Islamic Republic's rights including those in the Persian Gulf are fully observed, and the spirit of the 1975 accord dominates the talks' overall atmosphere.

In response to a question posed by an Indian reporter on Baghdad's position vis-a-vis expansion of Iran's relations with its Arab neighbours, the foreign minister quoting recent statements of Iraqi officials, said Iraq is not satisfied with improvement of Iran's ties with Persian Gulf Arab countries, since Baghdad is not willing to see an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation prevail in the region.

A Japanese correspondent asked about Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia to which Velayati answered that some difficulties existed in the two countries' relations. Nevertheless he expressed hope that they would reach agreements on the basis of cooperation within OPEC's goals.

He made it clear that principally Iran has no difficulties with Arab states because the Islamic Republic views the Arabs as part of the larger Muslim world.

Asked about Tehran-Washington relations by a Turkish reporter Velayati said Iran will not change its policy towards the United States as long as Washington continues its hostile behaviour towards Iran. He elsewhere reiterated that no talks were held between Iran and the United States in New York.

On Tehran-London ties he said talks between the two countries are going on and that Iran has already announced its position vis-a-vis the upgrading of the bilateral relations. Tehran-London talks cannot be said to have reached a deadlock, Velayati added.

Foreign Ministry Accepts Arvand River Dredging

LD1810120388 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 18 Oct 88

["Iran Accepts Dredging of Arvand River Only Within Resolution 598"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic accepts in principle the need to dredge the Arvand River but only within the framework of Resolution 598, the Foreign Ministry stressed Tuesday.

"Iran has never been against dredging the Arvand River but its an issue to be worked out in the context of the 1975 accord and Article Four of Resolution 598," a spokesman said. Foreign media reports on this issue had been misreported, he said.

Article Four calls on Iran and Iraq to cooperate with the U.N. secretary general in implementing Resolution 598 and in mediation efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just settlement of "all outstanding issues" acceptable to both sides.

Khamene'i Cables Gorbachev on Assuming Presidency
LD1710163488 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today cabled a congratulatory message to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev for his assumption of the Soviet Union's Presidency.

In his message, Khamene'i expressed hope Tehran-Moscow relations would further deepen on the basis of good-neighbourly principles.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was elected early this month as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest office in the U.S.S.R.

Moscow Commentary on Postwar Relations
NC1410090188 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[(Aleksandr Batyev) commentary from the feature "On the Waves of Radio Moscow"]

[Text] Dear Listeners: As we have previously said, the process of the Iran-Iraq talks has slowed down. Does this mean that the outlook for easing tension between the two countries and throughout the Persian Gulf is uncertain?

We put this question to our commentator (Aleksandr Batyev). He said: First of all I would like to point out that when we speak about a political solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict, we should not focus all our attention on the Geneva talks. These talks enjoy a (?special) place in the effort to achieve a lasting peace in the region. However, important steps outside the framework of the talks are also being taken in order to achieve this end. One of these steps is that the Iranian Red Crescent and Red Cross [as heard] have stated that they have completed all necessary steps for the exchange of POW's. Apart from this, Iran's Navy started the second phase of the Persian Gulf minesweeping operation. Finally, we can point out that Marrack Goulding, assistant to the UN secretary general who arrived in the area on Monday, has expressed full satisfaction with the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

In my opinion all these incidents show that both countries are determined to find a political solution to their conflict; and this, in turn, guarantees the success of the Geneva talks. I should point out at this point that the international barometer, which is extremely precise, has registered this determination.

How is this international barometer read? First, by the unprecedented activities by Western companies that have offered their services to Iran for the revival and reconstruction of the economy. Following this, contacts with the West (?on the government level) are expanding. For example, Italy sent a large economic delegation to Iran and dozens of large British companies participated in the recent Tehran International Trade Fair. Moreover, by the end of the current year a large FRG economic delegation is expected to visit Tehran and meet with Iran's foreign minister there.

One can only be pleased with such trends. The war inflicted hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to Iran's economy. It would take a long time to reconstruct the economy if one depended only on one's own strength. But there is another aspect to the issue which should not be forgotten. Some in Tehran fear that Western companies may exploit Iran's weakened economy and may possibly impose unsuitable conditions on Iran when concluding agreements with it. What should be done? There are several ways to resist the pressure by Western companies. As was justly and timely noted in Tehran, one of these measures is the balanced expansion of economic relations with the West and the East, namely with the Soviet Union, particularly as Soviet-Iranian relations boast a long history of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Presently, these relations are returning to their normal channel after a temporary lag. For example, the Soviet side will actively participate in the reconstruction and rennovation of the Esfahan steel mill and the Ramin and Esfahan thermal power plants, as well as of a number of other units built with Soviet assistance. Talks were carried out to this effect during the Tehran International Trade Fair, in which the Soviet Union participated. Mr 'Ali Majedi, deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, stated in his speech at the fair that the volume of trade is not favorable and cannot be considered satisfactory in view of the two countries' capabilities.

The conclusion drawn from (Aleksandr Batyev's) remarks is that good horizons are opening before Soviet-Iranian economic relations. As for how these potentials and outlooks can be implemented, we will discuss that in our nect program.

Talks With Soviet Delegation on Pest Control
LD1410090888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The plant protection and quarantine conference between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR began in Tehran this afternoon. The conference, attended by officials for the protection of plants, dealt with plant quarantine, pests, and diseases of potato crops, particularly bacteriological elements and the necessary measures to counter them, as well as with reducing the damage caused by pests and diseases of rice and cotton.

The conference will continue for 5 days at the end of which a memorandum of understanding will be signed by the two sides.

Khamene'i Urges Increased Defense Capabilities

LD1710151388 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Strengthening the country's defence capabilities is one of the major tasks during the reconstruction period, President 'Ali Khamene'i said here today.

The president made the remarks in his inaugural speech at the seminar of Ground Forces commanders. He said Iran should reach a satisfactory level concerning military hardware in order to materialise the goals of the Islamic Republic, and to counter real and potential threats.

Stressing that a firm belief coupled with a powerful and efficient organisation are the foremost steps towards the building of a sound defence, the president said the Islamic Republic is still subject to enemy threats who he said accuse Iran of tending towards East or West.

He said the Iranian forces should preserve their combat readiness since the Islamic Republic is aligned to neither of the two power blocs.

Senior Army officers, defence minister, presidential military adviser and Imam Khomeyni's representatives to the Army are participating in the seminar which aims to review the combat readiness of the Armed Forces as well as implementation of the new law in the Army.

Velayati on Peace Talks, Ties With Arab Nations

LD1710171088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati said at a news conference today: Future Geneva talks would be useful if Iraq would change its current behavior and cooperate with the UN secretary general in implementing his plan. The foreign minister said: In a statement released in New York, the secretary general stressed that the objective of talks in New York would be to implement the first article of the resolution after the cease-fire. The timetable for implementing the other articles and the remaining issues will be pursued in Geneva.

Concerning Iraq's position vis-a-vis Iran's expansion of relations with its neighboring Arab countries, Mr Velayati said: On the basis of comments made by some Iraqi officials, that government is not pleased with the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic and the littoral Arab states of the Persian Gulf. Iraq does not favor a climate of understanding and cooperation in the region.

Concerning relations with Saudi Arabia, the foreign minister expressed hope that in the future the two countries would reach some common agreement on the basis of cooperation within the OPEC framework.

On Iran's relations with the United States, Mr Velayati pointed out: So long as U.S. policies remain hostile toward Iran, Iran's policy toward that country will not change.

Concerning relations with Great Britain, the foreign minister said: Talks with the British Government are continuing and Iran's position about strengthening or upgrading relations have been declared. One cannot say that the talks have reached an impasse.

PRC Light Industries Minister Arrives 17 Oct

LD1710105488 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—China's Minister of Light Industries Zheng Xianlin heading a delegation arrived here Monday morning and was welcomed by Iranian Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'i.

The Chinese minister is to discuss expansion of bilateral economic relations and industrial cooperation with the Iranian officials.

The visit of the Chinese delegation is in response to recent trip to Beijing of Iran's prime minister deputy for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh at which expansion of Iran-China ties were discussed.

Continues Discussions

LD1710211888 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Beijing technical, industrial and economic ties were discussed during the first round of talks between Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'i and his Chinese counterpart Zheng Xianlin here today.

During the meeting, Zheng who arrived here earlier today heading an 18-man delegation, declared China's keenness for technical and economic cooperation with Iran during post-war reconstruction. Zheng also introduced to Shafe'i around 20 commercial products of his country including automobiles, electric utensils, tobacco products, paper manufacturing machinery and construction materials.

Shafe'i said Iran could cooperate with China in paper manufacturing industries, tobacco products, detergent powder and utensils.

During its week-long visit, the Chinese delegation is to hold talks with Iranian officials on expansion of technical and industrial cooperation and to inspect some factories in Iran.

Mining Cooperation Memorandum Signed With DPRK
LD1710135888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The first memorandum of understanding for economic and mining cooperation between Iran and the DPRK was signed this morning by the DPRK industries and mining deputy [as heard] and by the deputy mines and metals minister for coordination with the Majlis [as heard] at the ministry.

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding, the two countries have agreed that 80,000 tonnes of lead concentrate and 250,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate will be exported annually from Iran to the DPRK and that the DPRK will respond to Iran's requests for their conversion into the desired products.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the two sides have agreed that 100 kilogram samples of bauxite and phosphate and 10 kilogram samples of (?aluminate) and (?methaline) of cyanide will be sent from Iran to the DPRK and that after testing the samples, the Korean side will offer its opinion with respect to future steps.

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding, the two sides have agreed that Iranian experts will visit units for caoline, for the (?purification) of silicon, (?rubber) production, and the (?extraction) of tungsten and gold, (?methaline) of cyanide, platinum concentrate, sulfate of sodium, zircanim, and (?aluminate) in the DPRK.

During their 12-day stay in Iran, the DPRK delegation visited the Esfahan steel mill and the Nasuz factory, Zanjan's Anguran lead and zinc factory, and the tile factory in Esfahan.

Velayati Meets With New Turkish Envoy
NC1710073088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the new Turkish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Foreign Minister Velayati to present his credentials yesterday. During this meeting, our country's foreign minister wished him success and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with the Republic of Turkey have historic roots and are friendly and exemplary. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, this friendship intensified. In addition, with the expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, these ties can be further promoted and become a remarkable example of regional cooperation. Mr Velayati added: I recently met the Turkish foreign minister in New York. I hope to see him soon in Tehran.

The Turkish envoy then thanked Mr Velayati and expressed his happiness at being appointed ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: On behalf of the Turkish Government and president, it is my duty to strive for the broadening and strengthening of ties between the two countries. My heart's desire is to be able to take concrete steps in this regard. Friendship and cooperation with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran will assist me greatly in achieving this major objective.

Velayati Receives New Algerian Ambassador
LD1610181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The new Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Ben Khalifa submitted a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday.

The ambassador referring to the "excellent level" of Tehran-Algiers ties, expressed hope that during his tenure mutual friendly relations would continue to expand.

In response, Velayati in view of the extensive relations between the two countries, stressed the importance of the second Iran-Algeria joint economic commission which is to be held in November.

Larijani, FRG Official Discuss Relations
LD1610143088 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani told visiting member of parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) Max Kunz today that political conditions for expansion of Tehran-Bonn ties are excellent.

Larijani said that FRG can cooperate with Iran in expansion of power stations, heavy industries, agriculture, defence industries and universities.

The deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs also briefed Kunz on the long term rehabilitation policy of the Islamic Republic.

In response, Kunz reiterated that his country is keen on playing a valuable role in post-war reconstruction projects in Iran.

Danish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Delivers Message to Velayati
LD1610143288 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Visiting Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Beny Kimberg held talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday on Tehran-Copenhagen ties and other issues of mutual interest.

Kimberg submited Velayati a message from his Danish counterpart and announced his country's keeness to expand ties with the Islamic Republic. He also voiced support for U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598.

In response, Velayati briefed Kimberg on the trend of the U.N.-sponsored Iran-Iraq peace talks and denounced the Baghdad regime for obstructing negotiations by setting up absurd pre-conditions.

Elsewhere in his talks, Velayati underlined the need to expand Tehran-Copenhagen ties.

Discusses Ties With Lavasani

LD1610143488 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Beny Kimberg welcomed Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani here Sunday.

Kimberg also announced his country's opposition to any obstruction of U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan for implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

The Danish deputy foreign minister strongly condemned the Baghdad regime for its use of outlawed chemical arms and said that this country is opposed to the production of toxic gases. He also underscored the need to expand Tehran- Copenhagen political ties.

In response, Lavasani said Iran, since its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, has honestly cooperated with Perez de Cuellar whereas the Baghdad regime by setting baseless pre-conditions has actually hindered the progress of the peace talks.

Lavasani, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs reiterated that the Islamic Republic wants nothing but the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

Meets With Mo'ayeri

LD1610173188 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—The visiting Danish official today lauded the Islamic Republic's humanitarian act in providing refuge to a large number of the persecuted Iraqi Kurds.

Beny Kimberg, Denmark's deputy foreign minister for political affairs also condemned Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical weapon against the country's Kurds, in his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri. Kimberg announced Denmark's readiness to expand political and economic ties with Iran and the two sides' cooperation in the international arena.

In response, Mo'ayeri said Iran and Denmark enjoy ample facilities for promotion of bilateral relations, which he noted, will be of mutual benefit. The two countries can cooperate in the fields of agriculture, industry, production of energy, railways and construction materials, he stressed.

Lashing against international circles for their indifference towards the fate of Iraqi Kurds, Mo'ayeri regretted that global societies have failed to adopt proper measures to halt Iraq's unabated use of the internationally outlawed toxic gases. Mo'ayeri noted Iran and Turkey—Iraq's neighbour which host Kurdish refugees—have yet to receive any worthwhile help from responsible international bodies for backing the homeless and chemically injured Iraqi Kurds.

Kimberg heading a delegation arrived here Friday to hold talks with Iranian officials on boosting Tehran-Copenhagen economic and political ties.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD1710060788 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Premier Hoseyn Musavi told the visiting Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Beny Kimberg in a meeting here Sunday [16 October] that the Iraqi regime has created obstacles on the way of implementation of the UN Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Musavi added that the Iraq move has posed danger on the region. He said all countries of the world should show their dissatisfaction with hindering moves of the Baghdad regime.

On Iran's foreign relations Musavi told the Danish official that principles of the Islamic revolution are not in contradiction with expansion of relations with other countries and Iran's neighbours in particular.

He said that long-standing good relations between Iran and Denmark would help establish a strong ties in future.

Kimberg praised Iran's move in accepting the UN Resolution 598 and said Denmark was ready to assist Iran in post-war reconstruction. He also expressed interest of his country in further expansion of bilteral relations.

Iravani Departs for Economic Talks in Belgrade

LD1710151688 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani heading a ranking delegation left here for Belgrade to take part in the seventh meeting of the Iran-Yugoslavia joint economic commission to start work Tuesday.

Speaking to IRNA before departure, Iravani foresaw the coming round of the joint commission as a turning point in Tehran-Belgrade ties and said economic cooperation would progress from commercial to industrial field.

The 4-day meeting will discuss possibilities of Yugoslav cooperation in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

According to last year's protocol volume of Iran-Yugoslavia trade exchanges amounted to 300 million dollars.

Iravani is also carrying a written message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Yugoslav counterpart.

In view of Iran's reconstruction activities, the meeting assumes added importance and promises a change in bilateral relations of two prominent members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The two sides will also review the results of last year's trade protocol and will sign a new one for the next year's cooperation.

Representatives from the Ministries of Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Mines and Metals and Heavy Industries as well as the Majlis (parliament) and, Central Bank, are accompanying Iravani on his trip. In addition several representatives from the private sector are among members of the Iranian delegation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Kenya

LD1410164188 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Deputy foreign minister for Arab and African countries left Tehran Thursday for Nairobi at the head of a delegation.

Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam is to hold talks with Kenya's officials on Tehran-Nairobi relations and important regional and international issues.

Agriculture Minister Leaves for ICO Meeting

LD1710204388 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari left here for Islamabad today to participate in the third meeting of agriculture ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to start Tuesday.

In an interview before his departure, Kalantari said the main topic to be discussed at the meeting is to secure self-sufficiency in foodstuffs for Islamic countries. He regretted that Islamic countries have not actively taken into consideration agricultural cooperation.

Lack of coordination in the OIC has caused some member countries to sell their surplus agricultural products to outsiders despite the fact that some others have to import their needs at high prices. He said it is time OIC member countries can sell their surplus to each other.

At the conference, he said, the Iranian delegation will propose formation of a common market for Islamic countries—on the lines of the European Common Market—and will also highlight Iran's policy on agricultural self-sufficiency. Iran believes that securing of Islamic countries' foodstuff needs is possible only through self-sufficiency and independence from foreign countries.

The delegation will also inform the participants of Iran's views on technical and technological cooperation to modernise the agricultural sector in order to increase foodstuff production.

Agriculture ministers from 35 Islamic countries are to participate in the 3-day meeting.

Reportage on Majlis Speaker's Visit to Provinces

Praises Ilam for War Effort

LD1610195988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Dispatch from Ilam]

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the deputy commander in chief and the Majlis speaker, this afternoon went to the [name indistinct] stadium in Ilam.

During this glorious gathering, which was attended by families of the martyrs, POW's, brave tribesmen, and a large number of fighters, the Majlis speaker said: I am most interested in the news from those provinces involved in the war. I have always been in touch with news from this province. The unity of the people of this province is considered a great asset.

Referring to the people's role in the war, he said: The borders in your area were among those where the enemy reached a deadend, thanks to the presence of your brave, combative, and self-sacrificing people. The last time, after our acceptance of Resolution No 598 and while the enemy was dreaming of victory, your extensive rush to the fronts forced the Ba'thist forces to retreat behind international frontiers. This was bitter to the enemy and sweet to our nation.

Describing the shortages resulting from the war and reconstruction in that province, he said: The reconstruction of border provinces, particularly Ilam Province, has

been given special priority in the country's reconstruction project, because we consider the investment for the reconstruction of Ilam one of the best investments.

Views Reconstruction Plans

LD1710131788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The remarks of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief, at a gathering of people from the Malekshahi District of Mehran, is the subject of our next news report:

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Majlis, entered Mehran's Malekshahi District this morning in continuation of his visit to Ilam Province, and attended a splendid gathering of the region's brave tribesmen. At the gathering, Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the enthusiasm, eagerness, and steadfastness of the Malekshahi and Shohan tribesmen during 8 years of holy defense and applauded their spirit and bravery.

The acting commander in chief referred to the self-sacrifices of the people of Ilam Province, particularly the tribesmen, during the war and said: You dear ones, who live near the frontier and close to the battlefields, have consistently sent your children to the fronts. Through that action, you have maintained your spirit of resistance and your most recent epics occured during the last days of the war. You are among those friends who will always be useful to Islam.

He said: We do not claim that from the point of view of cultural or other services, effective measures have been taken. However, your pure sincerity has given you a place in the hearts of the country's authorities. The speaker of the Majlis described the province's tribesmen as a source of confidence for the country and, noting the natural resources of Ilam Province that cana be used for the reconstruction of the province, he said: With the end of the war and with the establishment of calm in the country, one of our greatest duties is to attend to the reconstruction of such regions.

Arrives in Eslamabad-e Gharb

LD1710132788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Continuing his tour of the west country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief and the Majlis speaker, arrived in Eslamabad-e Gharb from Ilam, this morning. He was welcomed by the governor-general and by a number of civil and military officials at Allahu Akbar garrison.

On his arrival, the acting commander in chief went to a gathering of the townspeople at the sports stadium. In a speech he praised the people of the area for their self-sacrifices.

Addressing the people of Eslamabad-e Gharb and the families of martyrs, he said: You self-sacrificing people are a model of resistance in the world. You broke the grip of world arrogance, created a great epic in history, and made Islam and Iran proud. [passage omitted]

Referring to the blind hypocrites' attack on the western part of the country, he added: Because of all the crimes that the mercenary hypocrites commited against the Islamic Republic system, martyring a great number of Islamic Republic officials and exploding bombs in Friday prayers and marches, they eventually fell to the wrath of our Hezbollahi people and to the resistance of our fighting forces in the west, and turned Eslamabad and Kerend-e Gharb into their own graveyard. [passage omitted]

GCC Officials See Increase in OPEC Ceiling

LD1710192588 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Despite the obvious glut in the oil market, oil ministers of (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council in a statement Sunday announced readiness to enhance OPEC's production ceiling.

The increase suggested by the Riyadh (P)GCC ministerial session will add two million plus barrels per day to the already high production quota of the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

An oil official told IRNA that the proposal should be studied in the OPEC ministerial session to be held in Vienna on 21st November. The official stressed each OPEC minister is sure to have a distinct stance vis-a-vis the (P)GCC's suggestion. The (P)GCC statement only mirrors the viewpoints of its member states, he added.

Declining to comment whether Iran is in agreement or is opposed to any increase in OPEC's production ceiling, he pointed out the Islamic Republic of Iran will declare its stands in the upcoming ministerial session of OPEC.

The suggestion for an increase in OPEC's daily production quota has been presented by those very same countries which have caused a sharp fall in the oil price by violating their quotas and flooding the world market with unwanted oil.

Oil price plunged from the OPEC set $18 per barrel to $8 this month because the supply far exceeded the demand.

The oil official further opined that any suggestion for OPEC's policies will be accepted only when interests of member countries are met, keeping in mind the unity and solidarity of the organisation.

He hinted that Iran only backs suggestions for boosting oil price. But stressed, Iran's support excludes abject submission to any plot.

Commentary Assesses OPEC Production Quotas
LD1710143788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the past few days prices of various types of crude oil have gone up remarkably in the international markets mainly due to the more positive positions adopted by a number of OPEC members and also to the speculation about greater cooperation among the member states to increase oil prices. This increase is taking place at a time when a joint session of the pricing commission and the long-term strategy commission is due to be held in Madrid on Thursday. The decision to call a joint session was reached in the course of the pricing commission's meeting last month.

Furthermore, at the end of a meeting attended by the oil ministers of the Gulf Cooperation council [GCC] last night, a statement was issued on developments in the oil market. The meeting was held to analyze the reasons behind the recent reduction in oil prices, as well as to prepare for the next OPEC meeting. The concluding statement of the meeting announced that the four countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE would be prepared to support a production ceiling of 17,429,000 barrels per day [bpd] covering 13 OPEC members. In addition, the above four countries would refrain from any increase in the production ceiling if approved by the organization.

At the present time, the OPEC production ceiling, excluding that of the Iraqi regime, is at 15,060,000 bpd. If the OPEC production ceiling at present and the figure proposed by the four member states of the GCC are taken into account a figure of 2,369,000 bpd remains which will be equal to the allocated production quota for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The concluding statement of the GCC oil ministers' meeting also notes that the production quotas for the member states will be decided on the basis of their individual production ceilings.

At present, the main obstacle in the path of deciding the production ceiling for OPEC and also the quotas is the Iraqi regime. For some years, this same regime has been refusing to accept its quotas and at present it is producing more than its former official quota. The Iraqi regime has set a condition for its accepting a quota: It wants an equal or higher figure than Iran's quota.

Not only Iraq but also those countries which believe in the above concept must realize that the Iraqi regime can never have a quota equal to that of the Islamic Republic of Iran, given the official OPEC criteria. The population, oil reserve figures, traditional output, and other factors are among the criteria that must be used to decide OPEC quotas. Therefore, talks of setting equal quotas for Iran and Iraq are totally unprincipled. This point was first aired in the framework of decisions made by the heads of Arab states in Amman, by the regimes in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at OPEC [as heard].

The problems facing OPEC presently, in addition to the issue of the Iraqi regime, also includes violations by a number of member states of the quotas allocated. In fact, setting quotas and production ceilings for OPEC are not remedies for the problems. It is the respect shown by the member states for the allocations that will be the main stabilizing factor in the oil market. For example, the recent fall in oil prices was due to overproduction by the GCC states and by the Iraqi regime. Excluding Iraq, all the above states have official OPEC quotas. The important factor regarding the increased production ceiling and the quotas is that, first, production increases must be linked with increased demand for more production in the oil market. Furthermore, any increase in quotas must be carried out with respect to the needs of the members states. Under the present circumstances, not all OPEC member states deserve increased quotas.

However, developments in the past few days in the market and the increase in prices has shown that if OPEC member states cooperate, stability can return to the oil market and prices of various crudes can increase in line with the collective interests of OPEC.

Khamene'i, SAIRI Leader Hold Talks
LD1510131988 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim met with President 'Ali Khamene'i this morning, on the eve of his scheduled visit to Syria. Hakim is visiting Syria on the official invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad.

The SAIRI chief reported to President Khamene'i on the latest developments regarding the Islamic revolution in Iraq. The president issued some guidelines on the topics dicussed between the two.

Reyshahri on Decline in Counterrevolution
NC1710074588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Reyshahri, the information minister, is visiting the province of West Azarbayjan and spoke to the Central News Unit correspondent in Orumiyeh. He said: A large number of counterrevolutionary elements affiliated with grouplets have realized that in the past 1 or 2 months, following the acceptance of Resolution No 598, the scope for their activities has become more limited. As they have no popular base inside Iran and have been deprived of their greatest support base abroad, the Saddam regime, they have surrendered to the forces of Islam.

The information minister continued: Compared with the situation in the past, security conditions in the sensitive province of West Azarbayjan are extremely satisfactory. As a result of constant efforts of the security and law enforcement forces in the region, there are no chronic threats to the security of West Azarbayjan. The information minister warned those individuals still affiliated with the counterrevolutionary grouplets to realize the situation as soon as possible and use this opportunity to surrender to the forces of Islam and save themselves from the dark future awaiting them.

Musavi, Majlis Speaker on Cooperatives' Role

LD1610131888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Following the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the declaration of a cease-fire, the issue of the country's reconstruction has taken on special importance. One factor which can play a fundamental role in reconstruction is the country's cooperatives. We begin the hour's news with a report about the meeting of representatives of development centers and producer and consumer cooperatives from around the country:

The congress of repesentatives of development centers and producer and consumer cooperatives from around the country opened yesterday morning in Tehran's Azadi Stadium with a speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. In his speech, the prime minister referred to the position of cooperatives in the Islamic Republic's economy and said: The position of cooperatives in the country is a legal one formed on the basis of the Constitution. Therefore, from a fundamental point of view, the cooperative sector holds a very strong position in the country.

The prime minister then referred to the imam of the ummah's recent message which stated that trade must not be in the hands of a limited number of people. He said: The monopoly of capital must be broken and the great masses of the people must participate in trade. If we are successful, we will be able to open a new road toward economic expansion.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Majlis, also addressed the participants of the nationwide congress of development centers and producer and consumer cooperatives. In his message he said: With the acceptance of Resolution No 598 and with the the Islamic Republic's successful and prominent initiative, it is possible that the country's reconstructive phase has begun. The need for the uniform participation of our Islamic homeland's social groups can be seen now more than ever. With the expansion of cooperatives, the Islamic Republic can fulfill society's material needs faster and in line with the justice-seeking ideals of the revolution. It can remove the danger of relying on Western capitalism, which engenders avarice, oppression, exploitation, and injustice, and on Eastern communality, which, with the conversion of the government into a state capitalist, removes the people's incentive and creates a spirit of hatred toward the leadership.

The expansion of cooperatives, in fact, amounts to involving a large number of people in an active economy as a private sector, and to including in this activity and work the great and deprived [word indistinct] of society with unlimited possibilities, innovations, and talents.

In another part of his message to the congress of representatives of development centers and producer and developmental [as heard] cooperatives, the acting commander in chief stressed: When we were laying the foundations of this sacred construction at the (?Ministry of Interior) and paving the way for this humane movement, we did not see before us the great flood of basiji and combative youth, who spent the best years of their youth on the fronts for the sake of defending Islam and the revolution. But today you have before you that dear, great, faithful, and sincere sector of the people who are the inheritors and owners of the revolution. They deserve to be given precedence in the conceptions of important cooperatives and particularly in sensitive areas or in sensitive posts which require faith and selflessness. Undoubtedly, the seminar will not forget the fact that the fighters at the fronts are one and the same with the builders in the field of reconstruction.

Majlis Deputies Discuss Domestic Issues

NC1410212188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Oct 88 p 14

[Excerpts] The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday morning's open session of the Islamic Majlis was Davud Naseri-Zadeh, the Zanjan deputy, who spoke on the imam's emigration from Iraq to Paris. [passage omitted]

The Zanjan deputy asked the cabinet to complete all pending work in order to fulfill the people's expectations, and stressed that executives should not become complacent about what they have done.

The deputy emphasized the need for planning along the lines of Islam and the imam's guidance, as well as the guidelines of the future leader and the needs of a society which has offered so many martyrs. He also stressed the need for implementing such a program by dedicated and revolutionary individuals who have suffered deprivation; not the sycophants and yes-men who merely raise revolutionary slogans and have never even tasted danger. He referred to the need for adequate and necessary attention by the ministers to approve officials.

Naseri-Zadeh also asked the Education Ministry to see that deficiencies and problems in education are eliminated as soon as possible, because attending to the problems of education experts would ensure the future of the revolution and the country.

Naseri-Zadeh suggested that measures should be taken to prevent departmental corruption, bribery, and embezzlement, and to expedite the affairs of the people. He proposed that in addition to a legal, moral, and religious approach, the conditions of emloyees should be investigated. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the Zanjan deputy requested the Petroleum Ministry to expedite the gas supply and increase the supply of kerosene in his constituency, and called for a survey of the affairs of rural residents in the Central and Tarom 'Olya' Districts.

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's session was Amin Bayanak, the Ahvaz deputy, who referred to the imam's message issued yesterday and said: For quite a while the imam has been issuing consecutive warnings saying: O you barefooted ones, oppressed by the might and wealth of the hypocrites, persecuted by those who have opulence and power, be watchful of those who wish to bring back a superficial, biased Islam of ease and comfort; an Islam of servility and compromise, of the unfeeling rich, and in a word, American-style Islam, into our hallowed precincts. [passage omitted]

Bayanak then spoke of the natural resources in Khuzestan and the deprivation in the province due to the negligence by officials. He also complained of cliques, office politics, intrigue in the ministries, and discrimination against Khuzestan as other, more prosperous, provinces were being given more attention. He added: In the days when Andimeshk and Dezful were being attacked by missiles almost twice every week, none of the esteemed officials came to visit the province to resolve the problems of the people and only appeared occasionally to make a speech. All the problems of the people of Khuzestan during the 8 years of war were neglected. In view of the fact that there were hundreds of thousands of fighters in the province, their quotas were never sent and they partook of the never-failing assistance of the people.

Bayanak then asked that the government's and prime minister's proposals for investigation into Khuzestan affairs be implemented and added: The provinces in the war zones sustained double blows. First, their economic resources were being destroyed by the daily attacks of the enemy; and second, they lagged behind in development compared with other provinces. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Bayanak asked the Agriculture Ministry to pay the farmers' fees for water and requested the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Ministry to expand their rural communications network in the province. He also asked the Roads and Transport Ministry for assistance with the construction of Bridge No 5.

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's Majlis session was Gholamreza Heydari, the Tafresh and Ashtiyan deputy, who began his speech on reconstruction and the importance of an Islamic economic system. He said: Reconstruction should be based on strong and firm foundations and conform with Islamic ideals and divine justice. One of the most important bases is the delineation of the economic structure of the country. [passage omitted]

He referred to some examples of social and economic activity and said: As long as there remains a marked difference in the incomes of various groups in society, which creates corruption, how can we expect a teacher to be prepared to give lessons in class when he does not even have money to pay the rent for his house? In today's industrial world in which distances are being eliminated entirely and the pulse of all the country's economic industries is controlled by a privileged few, how can we surmount the various plots of the enemies of Islam without a specific and formulated system? We do not wish to be left behind in the use of the most modern inventions and discoveries, even for a minute. [passage omitted]

The Ashtiyan deputy then referred to the recent message by the imam on reconstruction as the solution to problems and said: A specific solution that can consolidate our independence and implement our lofty Islamic ideals is the training of a specialized and efficient labor force. Foremost among our priorities in this regard should be the bolstering and strengthening of the number and quality of our research centers and universities. We can compensate for the past by boosting research and technology in all fields and upgrading courses to the master's or doctorate level.

In conclusion, the Ashtiyan and Tafresh deputy stressed that improvement in quality and number of universities and research centers in the country is one of the most important tasks for reinforcing our independence and liberating ourselves from covert and overt domination. [passage omitted]

2 Ships Added to Commercial Fleet

LD1710212888 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Oct. 17, IRNA—A multi-purpose ocean going vessel named after "Martyr Kolahduz" berthed at this southern port Monday, joining the commerical fleet of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company (IRSC). The ship was purchased from Greece.

Speaking at the event, official in charge of the Commerce Ministry 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji who also chairs the IRSC General Assembly said a 300-ton crane fitted on the ship can lift all kinds of containers and heavy machinery including power generators.

Vahaji said the IRSC with a fleet of 72 cargo ships is able to carry 55 percent of Iran's total imports and exports to and from the country.

He said another vessel named "Martyr Mahallati" having the same specifications joined the IRSC fleet on September 19. The sea-worthiness of both vessels is estimated to last ten years, he concluded.

Civilian Flights to Bakhtaran Resume

LD1610001588 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Iran Air resumed its flights to this capital city of the western province of Bakhtaran Saturday.

A special ceremony was held at the Bakhtaran airport attended by Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya and local officials.

An official from the airport said although civilian flights to and from the city were discontinued in the wake of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980 throughout the wartime as many as 34,000 military support flights had been made to and from Bakhtaran Airport.

Narcotics Seized, Traffickers Arrested

LD1710125188 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Four hundred and eighty nine kilograms of narcotics were seized by the Islamic Revolutionary Committeemen in several provinces including Tehran last week.

A press release by public relations office of the Central Committee here Monday said that six traffickers had been arrested last week on charges of dealing in narcotics.

Mohtashemi Letter Calls Majlis Speaker 'Traitor'

TA1710095488 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] It is being said in Tehran that in a letter which 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi wrote to Ruhollah Khomeyni, he called Hashemi-Rafsanjani a traitor for accepting Security Council Resolution No 598. Mohtashemi stressed that acceptance of this resolution was not prudent. Those who have seen copies of this letter say that Mohtashemi emphasized that peace with Iraq is not similar to the peace which the prophet of Islam made with his enemies. Apparently Khomeyni did not respond to this letter.

Pakistan

Commentary on Ziaul Haq Plane Crash Report

BK1810064588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The mystery surrounding the 17 August C-130 tragedy—in which President Ziaul Haq, the U.S. Ambassador Raphel and his defense attache, many top-ranking Pakistani military officers, and aircrew lost their lives—has been partially resolved with the release yesterday of the report of the Air Force inquiry board on the accident. With this important technical report having been made public, speculations as to the likely causes of the air crash—both within the country and abroad—have been set at rest.

Assisted by technical specialists from the United States Air Force, the report has been prepared by highly qualified professional officers of PAF [Pakistan Air Force] after approximately 2 months of detailed study of the wreckage of the aircraft, evidence of eyewitnesses, and other relevant data.

As a result of the exhaustive examination, the PAF investigation team has found that the most likely cause of the crash was a criminal act of sabotage perpetrated in the aircraft. Unusually high quantities of phosphorus, antimony, sulfur, and potassium were found in the wreckage. Traces of a secondary high explosive known as PETN were also discovered. These elements could be used to make a detonation device for firing pressurized bottles containing poisonous gases which could incapacitate the aircrew, rendering them incapable of controlling the airplane.

The technical board of inquiry has finalized their job. It would now be the task of other concerned agencies to pinpoint the persons responsible for the criminal act of sabotage which caused the accident. They must have already worked on this theory. With the [words indistinct] report now available, these agencies would undoubtedly address themselves wholeheartedly to this important aspect of the investigation so that the perpetrators of the heinous crime can be indentified and duly punished. It is gratifying to note that [words indistinct] the public into confidence with regard to the circumstances of the 17 August tragedy, which have been agitating their minds and could become an unnecessarily divisive issue in the forthcoming general elections.

It would be unfair not to observe that the present leadership of the country, since its assumption of office in a constitutional manner, has set healthy democratic trends in the country's governance—such as demonstrating respect for rule of law by not making even an indirect move to stand in the way of superior courts, and also of informing the citizens of the country of vital happenings in the country's affairs that are of general interest to them. This is indeed a wholesome departure from the past practice of withholding information from the public on even less important issues. Such unnecessary secretiveness unavoidably led to malicious rumormongering and planted seeds of mistrust between the people and the administration.

The publication of the technical report on the Bahawalpur air crash would thus not only close the door on further kite-flying on the causes of the accident, but

would also enhance mutual respect between the government and the people, which indeed augurs well for the future of the country and would facilitate a complete revival of democratic institutions.

UK Delegation Meets Senior Minister Khattak

BK1710025988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The possibility of joint projects between Pakistan and the United Kingdom in various fields, including telecommunications, was reviewed at a meeting between Senior Federal Minister Mohammad Aslam Khattak and a 20-member UK advisers delegation. The federal minister told the British delegation members that Pakistan is interested in indigenous production of industrial machinery so as to overcome its unemployment problem and to achieve self-sufficiency in all sectors. He told the UK advisers delegation to assess Pakistan's requirements in the fields of telecommunications, water supply, and transport and cooperate in implementation of the projects in these fields.

Delhi Notes 'Fluid' Election Developments

BK1410094088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] In Pakistan, one more Punjab minister, Mr Siddique Kanju, has decided to resign and join the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. Our Islamabad correspondent, R. K. Mathur, reports that the election scene continues to be fluid as several alliances take shape.

The PPP in the Frontier Province is reported to have reached an electoral understanding with the Jamiyat-i Ulema-i Islam, Fazlur Rahman Group.

The Awami National Party has entered into an election alliance with the Sindhi Baluch Pashtun Front in Sind following an understanding reached at Karachi recently.

The Muhajir Qaumi Mahaz, which swept an earlier poll in urban Sind, has not taken any election symbol for itself and is reported to be joining the nine-party Fida [faction] Muslim League alliance.

Government, Opposition 'Neck-and-Neck' in Polls

BK1710015288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0144 GMT 17 Oct 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 17 (AFP)—The Pakistani Muslim League (PML) and the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are running neck-and-neck a month ahead of parliamentary elections, analysts here say. Nearly 2,000 candidates are running for the 217 seats in the National Assembly, which includes 10 seats for non-Moslems. Twenty seats reserved for women will be decided by the new assembly when it convenes.

The November 16 legislative elections, which will be held simultaneously with provincial elections, are the first polls which political parties will be allowed to contest directly for 11 years. The PPP won almost all the seats in 1977, but the opposition accused the government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto of having rigged the elections. In the unrest that followed, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq overthrew the government and proclaimed martial law in July 1977. Mr. Bhutto was later executed.

The two factions within the PML, which backed Gen. Zia, who died in a plane crash in August, have just mended their fences in order to confront the PPP, now led by Benazir Bhutto, daughter of the executed president, and her mother, Nusrat.

The PML had been polarized—some "reconciliation meetings" turned into fistfights—between supporters of Gen. Zia's policies led by Nawaz Sharif, chief minister of the Punjab, and supporters of former prime minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who Gen. Zia fired in May. Ironically, it is Mr. Junejo, who Gen. Zia fired on the grounds he had been incompetent and encouraged corruption, who could become president of the PML and champion of government policies.

A poll taken by the NATION daily indicated Saturday [15 October] that 35 percent of voters were still undecided and gave a slight edge to the PML. Each of the two major parties has a dozen smaller parties as allies. As a result, the PPP is fielding candidates in almost every district.

This year—unlike in 1977—the PPP has presented a moderate program designed not to offend the military or the mullahs. Some candidates, including Qazi Hussain, leader of the Jamiyat, a Moslem fundamentalist party allied with the PML, have questioned the right of a woman to become president of Pakistan, a Moslem country of 100 million people that he would like to transform into an Islamic state.

Sanam Bhutto's Nomination Papers Rejected

BK1710164488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] Karachi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Returning officer of the Election Commission Monday rejected the nomination papers of Sanam Bhutto, the youngest daughter of former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, official sources said.

The nomination papers were rejected because they lacked Sanam Bhutto's signature, which the judgment said was mandatory. She is presently out of the country.

Sanam Bhutto's sister, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Benazir Bhutto, and their mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, filed three nomination papers on her behalf for a Karachi National Assembly seat.

Benazir Bhutto's counsel, Iqbal Haider, said an appeal would be filed against the judgment in the Sind High Court Tuesday.

Benazir Bhutto had also filed nomination papers from the same constituency for herself as a covering candidate. She filed nominations from her home town of Larkana as well as from two constituencies in Lahore. PPP sources said she may withdraw her candidacy from one of the Lahore constituencies.

Mrs. Bhutto, PPP chairperson, is contesting National Assembly elections from another Larkana seat.

No Election Symbols for New Parties, Alliances
BK1810025888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Quetta 17 October, Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat ruled out the possibility of allotting election symbols to any new alliance or party, saying that the process of allotment of election symbols to political parties has already been completed. Remaining election symbols have been handed to returning officers who will allot them to the independent candidates.

Answering a question, the chief election commissioner said the Election Commission enjoys all necessary powers to conduct the upcoming polls in a free, fair, and impartial manner.

Justice Nusrat announced that the Election Commission will have the election results broadcast over the radio and television from Islamabad. He said no candidates will be allowed to use government transport or to misuse their official positions.